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hat the Russians hope to gain by walking out

ither the American government nor American public opinion is ly surprised by the Soviet delegation's walk out from the Geneva missile s.

ashington has from the outset accepted as genuine the Soviet threats that deployment of medium-range US siles in Europe would mark the end he current round of talks.

ut the US government continues to k on the assumption that adjournment of the Geneva INF missile talks planned long in advance by the Soviet Union as a firm feature of Russian otiating tactics.

Its aim was to intimidate as much of stern European public opinion as sible, to foment fear and uncertainty, subject Nato to increasing political sion due to domestic disputes and to ourage the gradual decoupling of stern Europe from Nato and the Atlantic pact.

This view of the situation is one reason why the Reagan administration took temporary breakdown of the Geneva extremely calmly.

eading members of the US government continue to be convinced that

IN THIS ISSUE

ow cannot, for propaganda reasons alone, afford to end the Geneva once and for all.

S government officials note that the mlin has yet to seek a pretext for ending the Start talks on strategic arms reduction, also held in Geneva.

ere have been official expressions gret in Washington that the INF have been interrupted, but apart such comments there is a feeling short of relief that an increasingly ical and fruitless debate has been rned, forcing both sides to pause ought.

Americans are well aware, however, that the Soviet diplomatic ploy in could heighten tension within even further.

ere has been no substantial change United States and Soviet Union since the INF talks began two ars ago.

The Americans continue to say there must, if medium-range missiles cannot be banned entirely from Europe, be approximate parity in missile strength.

The Russians demand equal reductions by both sides, which would to all intents and purposes force Nato to dispense with medium-range missiles in Europe while allowing the Soviet Union to retain its existing superiority.

Yet this Soviet superiority has already begun to undermine the political potential for resistance of part of Western European public opinion, at least as seen from Washington.

America, and by no means merely the US government, is increasingly playing special attention in this context to the Federal Republic of Germany.

Despite the line taken by the current Bonn government the Federal Republic is felt to be increasingly susceptible to both intimidation bids by and friendly gestures from Moscow.

The American media paid at least as much attention to the Cologne SPD conference decision against missile deployment as they did to the Bonn Bundestag's majority decision in favour of Nato missile modernisation.

In Britain, America's longstanding ally, the Opposition Labour Party has

Continued on page 3

In tune. Bonn Chancellor Helmut Kohl (left) and France's President Mitterrand in Bonn for talks. (Photo: Bundesbildstelle)

Collapse of missiles negotiations dominates Paris-Bonn talks

DER TAGESSPIEGEL

Two crises dominated the Franco-German talks in Bonn.

One was the breakdown of the Geneva talks on medium-range missiles. The other was the imminent financial collapse of the European Community.

M. Mitterrand and the Bonn Chancellor, Herr Kohl, both regretted the statement by Mr Andropov but were confident Euromissiles would reappear on the agenda in Geneva and elsewhere.

Increasing importance is likely to be attached to the conference on security and disarmament in Europe that is due to begin on 17 January in Stockholm.

It is sad to recall that the European Defence Community failed to get going in the early 1950s because of French objections.

If it had been set up, Europe's security interests today would have commanded much greater importance between the superpowers.

European hopes were disappointed and subsequently concentrated on economic integration, but it too has now reached a critical stage.

The time has irrevocably come for a realignment of EEC contributions, the containment of agricultural expenditure, a final decision on when Spain and Portugal are to join the European Community and an increase in Community funds.

As the interests of individual member-countries are affected in different ways, a solution can only be arrived at by means of a compromise.

One such package deal settlement of all these problems was the Stuttgart package, so called after the venue of last June's EEC summit.

Cutting back the cost of the Common Agricultural Policy is the toughest problem because French farmers are afraid of being hit.

They are worried about suffering financial losses when Spain and Portugal join the Common Market too.

The meeting between Herr Kohl and M. Mitterrand failed to resolve all the differences, so further expert talks are planned in preparation for the December Athens EEC summit.

The European Community has reached a turning point at which it needs a fresh European stimulus toward further development.

(Der Tagesspiegel, 26 November 1983)



German scientist in space

The first West European astronaut in space. West German physicist Ulf Merbold, 42, (foreground) floating in the Spacelab on board the space shuttle, Columbia. Merbold is one of two scientists in the team. He and Byron Lichtenberg, 35, an American bio-medical engineer, are monitoring about 70 experiments over their nine days in space. Spacelab was built in West Germany for the European Space Agency (ESA). (Photo: dpa)



■ WORLD AFFAIRS

Geneva fails but quest for disarmament goes on

Both sides are of course to blame for the collapse of the Geneva INF missile talks

Both the Americans and the Russians were far too late in deciding on specific rapprochement moves, although Moscow alone is to blame for the unnecessary breakdown.

The Bundestag majority in favour of missile deployment merely reaffirmed a Nato decision that had been a known fact for years.

There were cogent reasons for how the voting went in Bonn. The balance of power was at stake, and it is the sine qua non of any negotiated settlement. So was transatlantic trust.

Conversely, the many Social Democrats who voted against deployment did so to give political expression to a justified anxiety about the basis of security policy in Western public opinion.

In both cases it would be wrong to apportion blame. Everyone agrees that the quest for disarmament must continue. There is no way in which a stable balance of power can otherwise be ensured in the long term.

Defence capacity and success-orientated negotiations on arms control and disarmament have been equally important features of Nato policy since the 1969 Harmel Report. They still are.

They form part of a concept on which the Europeans insisted at the time, but the Soviet SS-20 and the US need to modernise have upset the balance to the detriment of detente as the target.

The time has now come to restore the balance. As in 1969, it will be an important task for the Europeans at the annual autumn round of Nato talks.

Bonn at all events plans to insist on readiness to keep up the political dialogue and the wide range of cooperation with the East being clearly expressed by the North Atlantic Council.

At the EEC summit in Athens it plans to advocate a demonstration of joint determination on Europe's part in this connection.

Bonn will also be advocating a clear course on negotiations when US Secretary of State George Shultz arrives in the German capital for talks on 6 December.

Mr Andropov's statement following the Soviet walk-out at Geneva has changed the framework conditions for the worse, but there are still enough rounds of talks still operative at which constructive work can be done.

The Start strategic arms reduction talks are continuing for the time being, and they are by no means a no-hoper, always assuming they don't get dragged into the vortex of the INF debacle.

The Vienna MBFR talks on mutual balanced force reductions in Central Europe, now in their 11th year, will whatever happens resume after the Christmas recess.

The Geneva disarmament talks are fairly close to reaching agreement on a ban on chemical weapons, while in Stockholm a European disarmament conference is to be launched on 17 January.

It is planned as working its way from security and confidence-building measures to specific disarmament moves in Europe.

The Stockholm conference in particular will show how keen East and West are on keeping up the dialogue between them.

The Bonn government plans a spate of diplomatic activity beforehand. It included the talks held in East Berlin by Dr Friedrich Ruth, Bonn's disarmament delegate, and his encounters with other East Bloc experts.

Foreign Minister Genscher will be welcoming his Hungarian and Rumanian opposite numbers to Bonn in the New Year. Further meetings at Ministerial level are planned.

In Vienna the next meeting between Herr Genscher and Mr Gromyko has been mooted. But the crucial stimulus for successful negotiations must come from the superpowers themselves.

The only promising way of providing it is for them to resume their direct dialogue at high, not to say the highest, level.

Herr Genscher has suggested a meeting of Foreign Ministers in Stockholm to start the European disarmament conference.

That would provide an opportunity of holding the talks between Mr Shultz and Mr Gromyko that were cancelled last September.

The talks between the US and Soviet Foreign Ministers were envisaged as a precursor to a superpower summit meeting. A meeting between Mr Reagan and Mr Andropov is more urgently needed than ever.

That is what Herr Genscher mainly means when he says that the Stockholm conference could lend a stimulus to the resumption of negotiations on medium-range missiles.

Moscow's claim to a monopoly, expressed in terms of the Soviet demand for consideration of British and French nuclear systems, remains the crucial threshold to a solution.

The SPD's rejection of missile deployment may not have called into question the consensus on foreign and security policy shared by the conventional Bundestag parties.

But if it didn't, there is every reason for the Social Democrats to return to the same end of the rope as the coalition majority.

SPD views on strengthening conventional Nato defences would never be feasible without specific results in arms control and disarmament.

The coalition would do well to honour and take at face value the SPD's commitment to the foundations of common policy, such as Nato, Europe, the Bundeswehr and critical friendship with the USA.

This national consensus will then be even surer to outlive the dispute over the deployment decision.

Wolf J. Bell

(General-Anzeiger Bonn, 26 November 1983)

East Bloc hits back with new weapons

Missile deployment in the West is to be followed by East Bloc "counter-measures," the Kremlin has announced. SS-21s are to be deployed in the GDR and Czechoslovakia.

The SS-21 is a tactical-strategic short-range missile with a nuclear warhead. Some have already been installed in the countries concerned.

The decision on missile counter-modernisation by the East was reached several weeks ago by Warsaw Pact military leaders as requested by the Soviet Union.

Soviet leader Mr Andropov and his Defence Minister, Marshal Ustinov, outlined the political need for the move as Moscow saw it.

The East Bloc allies of the Soviet Union had already given their approval. They will not have done so lightly.

There has naturally been no public discussion of the pros and cons of stationing the missiles in the GDR and Czechoslovakia.

Party newspapers in the Soviet Union and the countries concerned were uniformly in favour of the move.

No-one in the East Bloc can dare what is a matter of course in the West (*where it is encouraged by the Soviet Union): calling military and political decisions into question.*

But there are a number of signs that leading politicians in the East Bloc countries are none too happy with the decision they have reached.

Western diplomatic sources in Moscow note a number of specific pointers. The Rumanian leader, Mr Ceausescu, for instance, has criticised both the US deployment plans and, directly, the Soviet ones.

In the Czechoslovak National Assembly in Prague views were voiced that ran counter to the declared Soviet viewpoint in favouring carrying on negotiations with the West even after missile deployment and not breaking off the Geneva talks.

Little imagination is needed to fancy that the GDR leaders too, while accepting the deployment of new Soviet nuclear missiles on military grounds, have found the idea a political headache.

The Moscow-led campaign against the nuclear arms build-up in the West has made people in the East more sensitive on the issue.

Many GDR and Czech citizens will be uneasy not only about US missiles but also about the extra missiles that are being deployed by the USSR.

The Soviet propaganda machine has unwittingly supplied arguments and fomented anxiety on this score.

The nuclear clash, which as Moscow sees it would mainly take place in Germany, will be made all the worse by the deployment of fresh Soviet missiles in the GDR.

What can be said against the American missiles applies in equal measure to the Soviet ones.

Public opinion in the East Bloc countries will be hard to convince that US missiles make a nuclear war more probable, whereas Soviet missiles serve the sole purpose of preserving peace.

The Warsaw Pact countries, especially the ones where the new missiles are to be deployed, have had to accept the military decision.

But it wasn't a popular one, and what the West has been through politically in connection with the missile modernisation decision may yet lie ahead for the East.

The East must go ahead with a nuclear arms policy the Soviet Union would have decried as unreasonable and dangerous on America's part.

Peter Seidlitz

(Kieler Nachrichten, 24 November 1983)

A tactical pl… in staggeri… deploymen…

For technical reasons, or so t… tagon says, nine months … before the next round of US … range missile deployment in … Europe.

Washington is still consider… man and Italian proposals to … announce this intermission … the opportunity of negotiation … the superpowers it entails.

According to the *Washington* … government officials have failed … to agree.

Deliberations by the Brussels … group, led by the No. 3 man at the … Department, Richard S. Burt, … included in a report to Nato … Ministers in December.

The battery of nine Pershing … ped to Germany after the Bundes… tag decision in favour of missile de… ployment will be operational by … December.

Government officials at … professed to be not clear whether … Soviet Union was to walk out of the … neva talks when the Pershings were … vered or when they were taken in… vice.

But they were keenly debating … ther it would be better to combine … two rounds of missile talks in Ge… INF and Start, next year.

Or maybe it would be better … them separate and wait for the Ru… to return to the conference table.

Most experts are reliably report… be in favour of separation because … don't want the Europeans to have … in the preparations for the line to … ken by the US delegation at the … talks.

By the end of the year a mere … the 572 medium-range missiles … ged in the 1979 dual-track Nato dec… will have been deployed in Western … rope.

The remaining Pershing 2s … supplied at intervals of several … over a two-year period because … facturing them is slow going.

The full complement of cruise mi… will not be in position until 1988.

Ideas of putting this staggered de… ry to good use in negotiations were … ced back in the days of the Carter ad… nistration.

The pundits who have always … that the Russians would not nego… seriously until the first missiles were … position in the West are now keen … intermission concept.

The Soviet exodus from the Ge… talks doesn't worry them. The Rus… will be back, they hopefully claim.

Emil B…

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 22 Novem…)

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…he Bundestag decision in favour of …deploying the new American missi… in Germany has put an end to years … debate.

…he decision that mattered was made … the Nato Council in 12 December …79.

…ut it would have been almost impos… …le without Bundestag approval to im… …ment the deployment part of the …-track decision after the failure of … Geneva arms control talks.

The road is now clear for the statio… …g of Pershing 2 missiles in Germany. …ut this is not the only reason why the … of the deployment debate marks the …inning of a new phase. The many …eches in the Bundestag have opened … several new security and domestic …licy perspectives.

For one thing, it is now clear where …ch party stands. The SPD has formally …mpleted the about-turn from appro… …g to rejecting the deployment — …ething that had been a tacitly estab… …hed fact within the party for some …e.

The extent to which the common …ound of the SPD/FDP coalition on …curity had already been eroded when the Schmidt-Genscher government collapsed has become obvious.

■ HOME AFFAIRS

Missiles debate sharpens up party differences

DER TAGESSPIEGEL

FDP MP Helmut Schäfer, who once opposed the change of coalition partners, now says that many then misunderstood Genscher. It was obvious now that Genscher was right.

In this respect, the CDU/CSU/FDP coalition has been strengthened still further by the deployment debate.

The SPD's position has also improved. After leaving former Chancellor Helmut Schmidt in the lurch, the party has come out of the twilight and is now unified.

The Social Democrats have become a genuine alternative to the coalition parties, though they still have to clarify their stance, especially towards Nato.

This can only be welcomed because it wil make it easier for voters to decide in future. If the SPD had done this before the general election in March, we would today be able to say with even more certainty that the electorate at the time voted in favour of the two-track Nato decision.

But the SPD will have to pay the price for its clear stand. Helmut Schmidt, a lone fighter now, left no doubt that he will continue to speak up. What he will say will be ammunition for the SPD's political opponents, whether he likes it or not.

Moreover, the Schmidt school of thought within the SPD is probably not as weak as it seemed in the Bundestag debate.

Unless the party makes a point of accommodating dissenters, he could still rally considerable support.

The insights interms of security policy that have come from the deployment debate are even more important.

Moscow will now have to come to terms with the fact that its hope of stopping or delaying the deployment with the help of the peace movement and pacifists was illusory.

The Kremlin will have to re-draft its policy.

Many Moscow watchers predict that the politicians in the Politburo will gain the upper hand over the military whom they will force to go along with a more accommodating course. In any event, Moscow now knows where it stands with the West.

There was hope throughout the Bundestag debate that the start of the deployment would not spell the end of the Geneva talks.

The debate also made it clear that the Bonn government is not prepared to forgo the security concept on which the two-track decision was based. It intends to follow through realistically and stick to the tenet that the ultimate goal of an arms buildup is to bring about an arms reduction.

Since it has become obvious that still non-existent Western missiles are usuless in making Moscow reduce its arsenal, the idea now is to achieve this by actually deploying the new systems.

The five years it will take before all the missiles are in place will provide scope for talks on a balanced arms limitation on the lowest possible level.

The debate has also demonstrated a qualitative change in security policy.

Arms debates have turned into disarmament debates.

Defence Minister Manfred Wörner: "The key to peace lies in the political sector." It is a combination of equal security and confidence building.

There is a definite chance that this will be realised in the East was well. As Helmut Schmidt put it, the more the nuclear buildup progresses the more people close ranks.

Peace movements in East and West have made politicians think and curbed the influence of the military.

The dominant mood in the debate was hope, overshadowing *angst*.

This is the most important asset in the generally positive balance sheet of the debate.

Heinzgünter Klein

(Der Tagesspiegel, 23 November 1983)

Russian walk-out

Continued from page 1

…en been able to commit itself to unila… …al nuclear disarmament without being …smissed as soft.

Yet many influential Congressmen in …ashington have long ceased to feel …re that the Opposition SPD in Ger… …any is as firmly committed to Nato as … was.

The seeming composure with which …e US government has registered the …eakdown of the INF talks cannot hide …e fact that the US-Soviet dialogue has …own weaker again at a crucial point.

There is little consolation to be gained …om the explanation put forward by a …mber of US experts, which is that the …viet government led by a clearly sick …uri Andropov is not sure for the time …ing what is to happen next.

The cautious rapprochement between …e superpowers only got going early …is year; the latest Russian move has …ade the going even tougher.

There are no facts yet to support the …onfidence shown by a number of White …ouse officials that Moscow will return …o the conference table in Geneva in the …ew Year.

Besides, it is fairly clear in Washing…ton that the Americans too have few de…finite ideas for the moment on the fur…ther course of events.

Moscow might not want to resume the …alks at all, given that the possible poli…tical benefit to be derived from the pro…gressive disintegration of Nato is greater …an the military risk run as a result of …US missile deployment.

But the risk of Russian lack of interest …n this count is felt to be fairly slight.

The final Soviet proposals before the …Geneva talks broke down have created …the impression in Washington that the …Kremlin is interested in limiting missile …modernisation for mainly military rea…sons.

Medium-range missile deployment by …Nato as now begun is scheduled to take …place over a five-year period, so the …Russians might yet decide to negotiate …a mutual reduction after all.

This gratifying turn of events would, …however, presuppose that there is no se…rious public unrest in Western Europe.

Klaus Arnsperger

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 25 November 1983)

Bundestag vote signal for big powers to act

Both superpowers have demonstrated credibility by delivering on their threats or promises.

The USA began bringing Pershing 2 parts to this country the day after the Bundestag approved deployment.

And the Soviets walked out of the Geneva arms control talks, as they had threatened to do if the missiles were deployed. The arms race is on again.

But the last word has not yet been spoken, and no-one knows whether the talking is really over.

The words announcing the end of the Geneva negotiations have been conflicting or at least open to interpretation.

Words like "not be continued," "ended," "broken off," and "suspended" have been used.

Messages on the issue may have been deliberately kept vague because the Soviets are reluctant to shut the door.

It is, however, a fact that the arsenal will not be reduced. It will be built up further.

Some political changes are also becoming visible. The bleak view in the East Bloc media had been anticipated.

The more interesting and disquieting initial responses to the Bundestag's green light for deployment can be found in Western newspapers — and few of them are jubilant.

One exception is the French daily *Le Quotidien de Paris* which writes: "The whole of Europa should rejoice."

Many commentators regard the Bundestag vote as a new danger for the West. They interpret the Opposition's vote against as a tendency towards a "national-neutralistic adventure" by Germany.

"Has pacifism injected a new irrational component into German politics?" asks *Les Dernieres Nouvelles d'Alsace.*

One of the answers reads: "The German sickness remains a timely issue." *(Les Echos).*

Other newspapers see things more in perspective and some even show understanding for the "widespread despondency over the fact that the nuclear arms race has been stepped up." *(The Guardian).*

There is also understanding for the concern that the deployment of the new missiles "could restrict a future conflict to European territory." *(The Times).*

The extent to which relief over the Bundestag vote goes hand-in-hand with massive fears is most clearly expressed by the French commentator who now sees West Germany placed in the role of a "privileged" Nato partner. Germany, he writes, "has assumed an unprecedented nuclear responsibility because the new missiles can reach the Soviet Union from German territory." He asks: "Have the Germans come of age in military terms?" *(Libération).*

The Western media pay little attention to the fact that most of the protest against new missiles is also directed against the Soviet overkill potential.

The fact that the SPD stressed at its Cologne party congress that it was firmly committed to the Western Alliance as the only guarantor of Germany's security has made virtually no impression.

This is not surprising because even the Bonn government acts as if the Social Democrats, along with the Greens, were demanding that Nato be dissolved.

By the same token, the SPD will fuel mistrust in the East Bloc if it continues to couple its rejection of the deployment with inferences that the Bonn government is obsessed with new missiles.

Is it so hard to see that this political tug-of-war at home must harm this country interms of foreign policy?

British Gallup polls show that 48 per cent of the respondents in both Britain and West Germany reject deployment. The figure for Italy is 61 per cent.

The fact that the Western media do not conclude from this that the British and the Italians are also headed for a "national-neutralistic adventure" can only be noted with bitter resignation.

What is more important is the fact that the Bonn government now has every reason to seek broad acceptance of the Bundestag's approval of the deployment. The voters are probably not as undivided on this issue as the coalition's MPs.

But even if the Bundestag decision had been made against the wish of the majority of the people, the answer still cannot be an extra-parliamentary opposition, as urged by the Greens.

This would not only create civil-war-like conditions in this country; it would also make Bonn's foreign policy position untenable.

What nobody could possibly have wished for has become a fact: the nuclear arsenal is being boosted and the build-up is taking place on German territory.

If ever there was a time for government and opposition to pull in the same direction this is it. But this means that both have to face facts.

The fact that Germany is seking ways and means to overcome the deadly nuclear deterrent strategy does not mean that it is unreliable.

The search is simply due to the special situation of a divided country whose interests don't coincide with those of either of the superpowers.

One of the most important tasks for both the government and the opposition is to make this clear abroad.

Hans Werner Kettenbach

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 24 November 1983)

■ DEFENCE

The reasoning behind the strategy behind the missiles deployment

Süddeutsche Zeitung

The Bundestag has voted to accept the new American missiles. There are no more obstacles to deployment.

The headquarters of the US 56th Field Artillery Brigade is a hive of activity. The combat alert site in the woods between Mutlangen and Schwäbisch-Gmünd is being prepared to house the first nine Pershing 2s.

The Pershing 2 is the crux of the missile modernisation dispute in Germany. Some regard it as a necessary response to the Soviet SS-20 build-up.

Others say it is part of a US strategy of nuclear warfare in Europe and a weapon system that will bring the world much nearer the brink of nuclear war.

Both sides base their views on the technical features of the missile and the corresponding uses to which it can be put.

Its supporters say it will make Nato strategy more credible.

Opponents say deployment is the start of a new strategy hailing from Washington, and based on a belief that nuclear war can be waged and won.

The basic idea of Nato strategy is apparent from its name: the flexible response strategy. Its aim is to be able to respond suitably to any conceivable *kind of attack.*

But the aggressor must be kept guessing what Nato's response would be in any given situation. This, strategic planners hope, will have a twofold effect.

First, the aggressor would be unable to predict Western counter-measures. Second, he must realise that because the West might use nuclear weapons he is sure to be hit harder in return if he is first to attack.

In terms of the logic of flexible response Nato needs a full range of weapons and military options to use in response to any conceivable form of attack.

The existing Nato range (excluding France) comprises conventional forces, short- and medium-range nuclear weapons, stationed in Europe and, finally, the strategic nuclear potential of Britain and, above all, the United States.

If, the argument runs, a gap were to open up in the range of weapons available, a flexible and suitable response would no longer be possible.

Nato would either have to move up to the next highest level, a world war in the case of nuclear weapons, or to remain on the lower level and clearly signalise to the aggressor the limits of the risk he is running.

So those who argue that the Pershing 2 is necessary in terms of military strategy because in closes a gap in the spectrum of escalation are arguing along these lines.

This brings us logically to a further argument advanced by supporters of stationing. In terms of the ladder of escalation medium-range missiles forge a link in Nato strategy between conventional defence and strategic potential.

As the Bonn defence white paper published just over a month ago puts it:

"In the nuclear sector the effectiveness of the deterrent role of US nuclear potential for Europe is ensured by the stationing of US nuclear weapons of varying range in Europe.

"The link with the strategic level is mainly established by weapons in Europe that are capable of reaching targets in the Soviet Union."

These two arguments of military policy apply in principle to other medium-range nuclear weapons too.

A third argument heard at Nato headquarters in Brussels, for instance, relates strictly to the Pershing 2 and brings us back from the abstract level of nuclear theory to specific thought about a possible war.

The Pershing 2 is suited by virtue of its target accuracy and its warhead's ability to bore deep into the earth, for destroying underground bunker targets.

It is not a matter of the headquarters of the Soviet political leaders. The missile has a range of 1,800km, which means that from bases in Germany it cannot reach Moscow.

But the command centres of major Soviet army units (army groups, known in Soviet military parlance as fronts) could well be hit.

In the event of a Soviet attack a strike at these Soviet operational headquarters is clearly being considered as a realistic option by Nato in Brussels.

The aim is to knock out the leadership of attacking tank units, at least in the short term.

Other important Pershing targets are airfields, traffic junctions, river crossings and railway sidings where a large number of soldiers and a large amount of equipment will be concentrated at a given time.

The speed and target accuracy of the missile determine plans for its possible use withing the framework of Nato's nuclear operations plan.

Nato dilemma

This kind of target planning reveals a fundamental dilemma of Nato strategy. It is that nuclear weapons in Europe are viewed not only as political weapons aimed at impressing on a possible opponent the West's readiness and the risk of escalation and thereby achieving a deterrent effect.

The use of nuclear weapons is also intended "to support forward defence against an enemy offensive," as one of the concept's best-informed interpreters, political scientist Peter Stratmann, puts it.

It would do so either in the form of first use by the West or in response to corresponding moves by the other side that might otherwise lead to a swift collapse of Nato's forward defence.

This military role of nuclear weapons in Europe might, if war were to be waged and strategic theory were to be put into military practice, be responsible for nuclear devastation of the Federal Republic.

If the aggressor were not to believe these nuclear weapons were deployed solely to fulfill the political purpose of checking escalation and preferred to see them first and foremost as weapons aimed at his attack capacity, he would be keen to eliminate them as soon as possible.

If the Warsaw Pact takes the point of the flexible response, Pershing 2 should genuinely boost the deterrent effect. If not, the missile will, to say the least, not contribute toward stabilisation in any conceivable crisis, let alone war.

One popular line of argument against the Pershing 2 in the peace movement is constantly reiterated by a majority of Green MPs in the Bonn Bundestag.

In the United States, to quote Petra Kelly of the Greens, there is said to be a "tendency toward the first-strike strategy."

The Pershing 2, says fellow-MP and former Bundeswehr general Gert Bastian, serves the purpose of paralysing the enemy's military and political leadership in a surprise strike.

The Soviet Union will then, in the next stage of the operation, be disarmed in nuclear terms by means of intercontinental ballistic missiles.

As part of the transition from a deterrent to a warfare strategy the Pershing, he argues, has such a key role to play in the new concept that the United States can on no account afford to dispense with it.

This argument is not accepted by experts holding such different views as Defence Minister Manfred Wörner and peace research scientist Alfred Mechtersheimer.

They say the Porshing 2, with its range of 1,800km, can reach neither Moscow nor more than 10 per cent of the Soviet missile arsenal.

The 108 Pershing 2s intended for deployment in Europe are not enough to strike a crucial blow at or paralyse the Soviet leadership.

Besides, the United States, it is noted, has offered to limit the number of Pershing 2s deployed to a mere handful at the Geneva talks.

"It is absolutely clear," says Mechtersheimer, "that the 108 Pershing 2s do not make up a first use potential. But the crucial point is that so-called missile modernisation is none the less dangerous for that."

He works on the assumption that the Perhsing 2 is a danger by virtue of its character as a first-use weapon.

The Nato doctrine is to use nuclear weapons at an early stage in hostilities, and in the Pershing's case Nato is forced to use them at a very early stage.

"The Pershing as a land-based missile is very vulnerable," he says, "and its limited mobility in no way changes this state of affairs."

For the Soviet Union the Pershing is particularly menacing on account of its military usability. For Nato the choice is one of "use them or lose them."

"This diabolical mechanism," says Mechtersheimer, "has something of the nature of an automatic detonator."

Those who fear the Pershing 2 as a first-use weapon are worried by what they feel is a change in US conceptional thinking. So are those who are critical of the missile because they rate it a too dangerous first-use weapon.

This change in US thinking is said to be demonstrated by documents such as the new 100/5 field regulations and defence guidelines for 1984 to 1988, in both of which nuclear weapons are assigned a role in the concept of warfare.

The Pershing

Design: two-stage ballistic mi...
Length: 10.55 metres (34ft 7in...
Weight at take-off: roughly 7...
(15,840lb).
Top speed: about 12 times the ... of sound after combustion ... second stage.
Maximum range: 1,800 km (... miles), which the missile co... between 10 and 14 minutes.
Target-finding: inertia system ... section of the missile that carr... warhead can be retargeted shortly ... fore impact and after the two pr... sion stages have been cast off ... final phase correction radar ... pares a computer diagram of the ... get with the signals received from ... area of impact. So the mean di... between the target and the poi... impact is between 10 and 40 me...
Warhead: nuclear warheads with ... riable explosive power, prob... between 10 and 20 kilotons ... bomb dropped on Hiroshima was ... 12.5-kiloton device). Available ... for underground, ground and ... detonation. The missile can also ... fitted out with a non-nuclear w... head (conventional or chemical).

The Pershing 2 is mobile and ... be moved around on an articula... trailer from which it is launched ... will be replacing 108 Pershing 1s ... service with the US 56th Field Ar... lery Brigade. General Pershing ... C-in-C of American forces in Eur... in the First World War.

Strategic expert Hans Günter B... expresses this criticism in a single ... tence in his book *Die Raketen ko...* (The Missiles Are Coming):

"The Nato flexible response str... has, as a result of unilateral chang... US nuclear doctrine from a strateg... mutually assured destruction to a ... trine of limited potential use of nu... weapons, brought about a fundam... change in the role of nuclear weapo... Western deterrent strategy."

Critics on this score attach crucial ... portance to the possible European... tion of nuclear war by virtue of the ... ployment of many different mo... weapons in Europe and, above all, ... plans drawn up for them.

Soviet officials are known to ha... said more than once that the Soviet ... sponse to a nuclear missile that hi... target in the USSR will be the sa... whether the missile was launched fr... Germany or from America.

But critics of missiles deployment ... the West argue fro one that these ... merely fine words on Moscow's p... For another, they feel the Russians ... now capable of launching a limi... counter-attack using fairly accura... targetable Soviet missile.

The Soviet counter-attack is envisa... as being aimed at military targets in ... United States, where it might argua... do less damage than in densely po... lated Europe.

But by this stage of the argument ... critics are way up in the cloud cuck... land of nuclear strategy.

The overwhelming majority of critic... who feel there has been a change ... concept in the United States are not ... the Opinion that either Washington ... Nato are planning or preparing for wa...

But they do fear that at least the de... terrent concept is no longer based on a ... common fear of nuclear apocalypse. The ... Pershing is said to play a crucial part ... making nuclear warfare feasible.

Kurt Kister

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 25 November 198...)



■ PERSPECTIVE

John F. Kennedy: the pieces that went to create a president and a legend

...or years foreign correspondents and America-watchers have been amaz... ...the gap between the qualifications ...lected US Presidents and the almost ...manly high expectations placed in ...s and their job.

...ohn F. Kennedy, killed in Dallas 20 ...s ago, is generally excepted. He un...stionably had the makings of a Pre...nt, even though he had only two ...rs, 10 months and two days in which ...prove it.

...merican history would have taken a ...ferent course if a gunman's bullet had ...put such an abrupt end to the life of ...esident with JFK's bright, watchful, ...n mind.

...he Vietnam War would not have be...e as big it did. There would certainly ...ve been no Watergate scandal.

...Kennedy's name fast became a legend ...er his death because he seemed to ...ve given expression to a hope that had ...en unable to achieve fulfilment.

...It is a hope people have still not for...tten, which is why, even 20 years later, ...is remembered as something more ...n a US President, as something hu...nly out of the ordinary.

...This is still the case even though Ame...ca, under the present US administra...on is poles apart from Kennedy's Ame...

...It is far from easy to describe the kind ... hope associated with Kennedy's ...me, the hope that has outlived him. ...aybe a poet can lend a helping hand.

...Robert Frost, the grand old man of ...merican poetry, at the age of 86 expec... Kennedy's term of office to be a new ...ugustan age in which power and poe...y were reconciled.

...At Kennedy's request he was to recite ...poem at the ceremonial induction of ...e President on the steps outside the ...apitol.

...But on 20 January 1961 Washington ...s snowed under by a blizzard. The ...nd blew the sheets of paper with the ...oem on them to the ground at the feet ...the man who had just been sworn in ...President. He bent down and picked ...em up.

...It was a memorable and noteworthy ...cident. Poetry was reconciled with ...ower yet the poem was blown away.

...It was not just that the new President ...d a close relationship with the arts ...d bestowed his patronage on them as ...ly Thomas Jefferson, the writer of the ...eclaration of Independence, had done ...fore him.

...In John F. Kennedy the desire for ...ower, and politics as a profession, was ...mbined with an outlook on life that ...ight, if his talents had been slightly ...fferent, have made him too write poe...y.

...It must have been the Kennedy life ...yle, inimitable though it is, that fuelled ...opes of its resurrection.

...JFK was a very complex personality. ...is style was intellectually controlled, ...bjective, precise, unemotional, a style ...ombining dry humour and undeniable ...harm.

...He could also captivate the masses. ...His charismatic power of leadership was ...effective both at home and abroad, and ...at times more so abroad. His *Ich bin ein Berliner* speech is unforgotten.

...But he was not just a darling of the ...Gods. He had personal experience of the nearness of death as a result of a wartime back injury.

There was hardly a day when he didn't feel physical pain. He was only too aware of the fragile nature of human existence.

He had a premonition that he would die young, like the poets Novalis, Rimbaud and Byron.

Life was unfair, he once said at a press conference, but he made a point of being full of life and vigour, an infectious quality to which young people in particular were sensitive.

As his wife said after his death: "Now I realise I should have known. He was always a magician. I should have realised it couldn't last."

Against the background of dark events such as the Berlin crisis and the first (and so far only) genuine nuclear confrontation between the superpowers over Cuba, he sought to train the bright light of common sense on a world that seemed to him not to be sufficiently protected by the gloomy balance of terror from destroying itself.

To this day that made him a modern man. "Kennedy's intelligence," James Reston of the *New York Times* wrote, "made it virtually impossible for the European intelligentsia to remain anti-American."

It was a revealing, topical comment. Kennedy was ahead of his time and would be even now. He was 46 when he died.

He was shot by Lee Harvey Oswald, an assassin so obscure that even over 20 years biographers have failed to prove he had conspiratorial links with aides or backers of any kind.

Kennedy, who maintained toward himself the same detachment he showed to others, would not have called himself a martyr.

Oswald, 24, spent part of his life in Russia and had vague links with a pro-Castro group, but that in no way changed the impression that the assassination was an absurd and absolutely senseless act of individual madness.

Clarification of the case was particularly hampered by Oswald himself being shot and killed by bar-owner Jack Ruby as he was being transferred from one prison to another.

The shooting was seen live on TV by millions of viewers. Ruby was born in 1911 in Chicago. His original name was Jacob Rubenstein and he had questionable relations with the underworld.

He died of cancer while his own trial was still in progress. He died in the hospital where President Kennedy succumbed to his injuries.

Dallas in 1963 was a hotbed of right-wing extremism but the assassin, Lee Harvey Oswald, was a left-winger (inasmuch as he can be pigeonholed politically). The murder was the work of an individual.

John F. Kennedy's life's work remained unfinished. He left behind very little that was definite. His legacy is the idea of change.

He saw with merciless analytical clarity the weakness of the political and social order over which he held sway. In this clarity of vision he was Churchillian.

Lyndon B. Johnson's war on poverty was his legacy. He freed America from the ballast of antiquated economic thinking and the slogans of the Cold War.



President Kennedy (left) during his visit to West Berlin in June 1963. In the middle is Willy Brandt, who was then Mayor of the city and on the right is Chancellor Konrad Adenauer. (Photo: dpa)

He saw both as sides of the same coin. He chose to abide by the law of constant change to which he felt committed by his powerful sense of history.

For him America ought not to allow itself to be deprived of its brithright of revolution, a revolution that preceded the French, Russian and Chinese revolutions.

But the overriding point was to establish a bridgehead in the thicket of mistrust between the world powers so as to save mankind from the ever-present threat, as he saw it, of nuclear war.

Before he could achieve this, his overriding ambition, he had to demonstrate to the Soviet leader, Mr Khrushchev, the tough interior that lay concealed behind his noble manners.

In June 1961 the two men met in Vienna. "Our talks on Germany and Berlin were gloomiest," he later told his fellow-countrymen.

In Berlin the threat of nuclear war was only apparent behind the scenes. In October 1962 it came to a head as stark reality for the first time in history in the Cuban crisis.

Yet Berlin was ever-present in the minds of planners in Washington. In consideration of Berlin as the first possible target of Soviet retaliation President Kennedy opted for a naval blockade of Cuba.

He preferred a relatively limited measure in response to Mr Khrushchev's deployment of medium-range Soviet missiles in Cuba. The Kremlin chose to beat a strategic retreat from the Caribbean.

In the wake of the Cuban crisis, in which the superpowers turned back just in time from the brink of a nuclear abyss, Kennedy's greatest, if short-lived, period began.

He embarked on detente, an aim that currently seems so distant again. On 10 June 1963 he made a speech at the American University in Washington D.C. announcing that talks would soon be held in Moscow on ending nuclear tests.

He saw an opportunity of using the calm that has descended on the Cold War. On 5 August 1963 the test ban treaty (banning all but underground tests) was signed.

President Kennedy felt it was the most important achievement, historically speaking, of his term in office. Prime Minister Nehru of India referred to it as a turning point in world affairs.

Kennedy quoted the old Chinese proverb of the first step on a journey of 1,000 miles: 1,000 miles to genuine detente that have yet to be covered.

Khrushchev also had a Chinese quotation at the ready. The paper tiger, he said, had nuclear teeth. A new style of thinking that bore the Kennedy hallmark emerged from this constellation.

It is far from useless to recall these ideas. They may arguably be referred to as the Kennedy potential of a commonsense *Ostpolitik.*

They surmounted the ideological approach that prevailed in the John Foster Dulles era and has returned to the fore in America today.

They dispensed with the moral claim to a monopoly and pretensions to be all-powerful and ever-present.

They appreciated the limits of American power, limits Kennedy was shamefully confronted with in the Bay of Pigs episode in his fourth month in office,

They tolerated other values and concepts of order, even Communist ones, and acknowledged the need to wait for solutions to mature.

"Peace is a process, the sum total of many acts," the President said, and he left behind a principle governing the philosophy of history that applied, or so he felt 20 years ago, to German reunification.

There were overlapping interests even when opposites seemed irreconcilable. When these interests grew stronger they could break the bounds of the contradictions that surrounded them. A new historic situation then obtained.

What has been said so far makes Kennedy out to have been a peacemaker. Ten years after his death a revionist school of contemporary historians sought to arrive at an entirely different view of President Kennedy.

They no longer saw him as the founder of detente, including German *Ostpolitik* and the detente policies of President Nixon and Secretary of State Kissinger.

He was now seen as the toughest of all cold warriors, to quote Gary Wills, a militant left-wing writer.

The crucial factor when it comes to history's judgement must be the view that is taken of Kennedy's relationship

Continued on page 8

■ THE THIRD WORLD

Old ironmongery finds a new lease of life

An organisation has been set up in Marburg to recondition equipment and send it to Third World countries. A parallel aim is to provide work for Germans.

Technologietransfer Marburg in die Dritte Welt (TTM) was based on an idea of the Marburg Labour Office and founded in conjunction with business interests in the city.

Its aim is to use equipment discarded by German companies as obsolete because of new technology, recondition it and ship it out.

Many developing countries have decided that it is better to use simple but strong equipment rather than ultra-modern equipment needing highly trained technicians.

TTM reports offers of machinery and equipment coming in every day from all over the country, "from Munich to Flensburg," says the manager, Hans Joachim Stauder. "We're very optimistic."

Many companies and institutions in the industrial world must keep up with new technologies and discard equipment that is obsolescent yet in perfect working order.

The equipment is reconditioned and adapted to Third World conditions and then sold to developing countries.

TTM wants to use the Third World experience gained by charitable organisations.

First priority is medical equipment, for which there is much demand in the developing countries.

Hospitals are being asked to dig around their basements and storerooms for discarded equipment.

The equipment then goes to the TTM workshops where it is cleaned up and adapted if necessary.

TTM board member Rüdiger Herper says: "Whenever possible we try to ensure that the equipment can be operated with various types of energy — electricity, gas, steam and solar energy."

The equipment must be easy to operate and usable under a wide range of circumstances, says Herper.

Rebuilding and adapting operating theatre lamps, oxygen equipment and simple electrocardiographs is only a preliminary stage.

Self-help, is the aim. The developing countries are eventually to be enabled to manufacture the equipment themselves.

But the main aim from the beginning was to provide permanent jobs for unemployed young skilled workers.

TTM wants to make the most efficient use of Labour Office job promotion funds. It can point to a study by the Labour Office's Institute for Job Market and Vocational Research which shows that financing unemployment (cost in 1983: DM55bn) is in no way cheaper than financing the much maligned job promotion measures, ABM for short.

But the successful use of ABM funds presupposes that the money goes into creating secure jobs that will not be lost as soon as the funding stops.

It is this that gave TTM the idea to transfer adapted technology to the Third World.

Stauder: "We want to use the ABM money to build up a permanent production and that means being competitive."

There is no doubt that TTM has found a market with great potential. Bonn Development Aid Minister Jürgen Warnke has put in DM60,000 towards the starting capital.

The Technical Cooperation Corporation, wholly owned by the Development Aid Ministry, will advise TTM in the development of new products.

This will save about DM40,000 in technical consultation charges during the two-year starting phase.

The City of Marburg contributed DM150,000 towards equipping the workshop.

This has provided jobs for 13 young skilled workers, two of whom already have master craftsman's certificates.

They started work at the beginning of July, only one month after the society was founded.

They are paid by the State Labour Office which will pay the wages for two years.

ABM is financing this particular promotion measure in full rather than the usual 60 to 80 per cent.

It will take some months before the TTM workshop will be working to capacity. But Stauder has no doubt that once the operation is in full swing it will be successful.

He: "Our aim is naturally to foot the entire bill for the payroll. But even if we initially manage to earn 50 per cent towards it we'll chalk it up as a success."

Given such favourable success prospects, ABM would be wise to continue contributing towards the payroll if TTM were unable to provide more than 50 per cent.

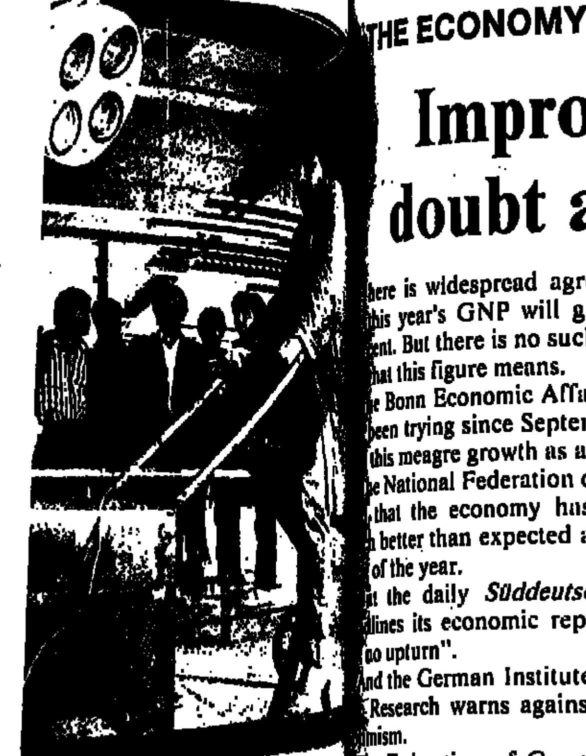
A 50 per cent state subsidy would be cheaper than paying unemployment benefits.

But ABM regulations rule this out. Eberhard Mann of the Federal Labour Office in Nuremberg: "ABM must not be allowed to turn into a permanent subsidy."

This is, however, purely hypothetical. Stauder is determined to have his society stand entirely on its own feet within two years.

Wolfgang Hoffmann

(Die Zeit, 18 November 1983)



A guarantee of power in remote places: this pedal-powered generator supplies emergency power to the operating theatre lights. (Photo: Claus...)

The senior peace corps: putting experience where it is wanted

Nineteen retired people have been sent to the Third World as advisers in their specialist fields under the auspices of a Bonn-sponsored organisation, SES, since the beginning of the year.

Senior Experts' Service provides Third World countries with expertise in the person of senior people ready to retire. They include tradesmen and people experienced in various types of business administration.

Companies using the scheme are charged travel costs, accommodation, food and a daily allowance of DM30.

Eventually another 20 per cent will be added for administrative costs to make up for the subsidy from the Bonn Development Aid Ministry which is to be dropped in 1986.

The aim of SES is not only altruistic. It is also to promote German business.

With this in mind a fund-raising drive has been launched to get money from business and keep the costs of the project as low as possible for Third World countries.

More than 600 newly retired experts, ten per cent women, are registered with SES.

What makes a person postpone retirement and seek a responsible and often difficult job?

It is certainly not the prospect of seeing the world. Most have travelled extensively during their working lives.

Nor is it a belated quest for adventure, says Peter Oltmanns, a retired senior government official who has just completed his first stint in Entre Rios, Brazil.

Most simply refuse to come to terms with being thrown on the scrap heap. For them, working for the SES is a new challenge.

But a certain idealism also plays a role. Oltmanns says there were only few days in all his working life as head of the Federal Housing Administration that were as hectic as his work for a rural cooperative in Entre Rios.

Starting work at 8.30 a.m., he worked with the co-op's planners in a effort to find solutions to the problems of the farmers and develop a better infrastructure.

After his day's work, he would still be available until late at night to give advice.

Apart from his regular work, he was instrumental in establishing a factory for light alloy roofing made under licence from a German company.

It is possible that a project in Wuhan, China, which was negotiated by the City of Duisburg, will result in lucrative follow-up orders for German companies.

The first three in the group of experts going to Wuhan took a crash course in Chinese language and culture.

They are to help update obsolete industrial plant.

Birgit Krummacher

(Die Welt, 22 November 1983)

THE ECONOMY

Improvement predicted, but there's doubt about how much good it will do

DIE ZEIT

There is widespread agreement that this year's GNP will grow by one per cent. But there is no such agreement what this figure means.

The Bonn Economic Affairs Ministry has been trying since September to present this meagre growth as an upturn.

The National Federation of Banks has said that the economy has developed much better than expected at the beginning of the year.

But the daily *Süddeutsche Zeitung* headlines its economic report "Pickup but no upturn".

And the German Institute for Economic Research warns against premature optimism.

The Federation of German Industry (BDI) says there is an upward trend in basic materials, manufactured and consumer goods. Business in capital goods is declining still further; and while domestic sales have picked up, exports are lagging.

Things are shaping up well in the electrical industry and in chemicals. AEG board member Hans Gissel: "Sales in the electrical industry will be up four per cent in 1983."

According to the industry's association, this year's output will be up one per cent, adjusted for inflation.

It says in a report: "Makers of electrical capital goods are more pessimistic than those making consumer goods, where the outlook is becoming increasingly optimistic."

The chemical industry is doing even better. Herbert Grünewald, chief executive of Bayer: "The situation has improved markedly." Output in the first nine months of this year rose four per cent.

The construction industry, which was to have spearheaded the upturn, has had a tough time getting off the ground. Business has not improved to the extent the order books seemed to indicate, says the BDI.

Though there was a steep rise in planning permissions in the first half of the year, there were fewer housing starts than last year.

The German Institute for Economic Research therefore expects construction to grow only one to two per cent this year. But there will be a considerable improvement next year.

The motor industry is in much the same situation. Talk of an upturn has been eclipsed by the reality. Figures are down on last year.

Domestic sales have been good, but that is only part of the industry's business.

Two-digit growth rates for newly licensed cars in Germany have not been enough to offset the drop in exports. Even the output of cars and station wagons is down one per cent against last year. Commercial vehicles are down as much as five per cent.

Westdeutsche Landesbank expects the motor industry's output as a whole to be down one per cent this year. But in 1984 it is expected to grown five per cent.

Machinery is worse off. The level of this year's orders was well below that of 1982.

Sellers of machinery and industrial plant are still feeling the pinch of the "worst capital goods recession since the 1930s," as the president of the industry's federation, Tyll Necker, put it.

The BDI expects the 1983 output to be down another three to five per cent.

It is investments, today's motor for tomorrow's upturn, that worry the Bundesbank more than many other aspects.

Though this year has seen the first slight rise in two years, the investment ratio remains to low.

Deducting depreciation, only 1.5 per cent of GNP has gone into new plant and equipment. "Apart from a brief phase after the first oil shock in 1973/74, this is the lowest investment rate ever to be recorded in this country," warns the Bundesbank.

The pickup in business (it would be going too far to speak of an upturn) is due primarily to consumer buying.

This was "the main surprise of 1983" for former Bundesbank President Otmar Emminger.

Consumers had less in their pay packets this year (in real terms) than the year before because the pay increases were not even enough to offset the low 2.6 per cent inflation rate.

But the were no longer prepared to postpone buying.

This meant either dipping into savings or saving less.

The consequences are reflected in the banks. "Stagnating real incomes and the noticeably greater consumption in the past few months have changed saving patterns in this country," says the president of the Savings Banks Association, Helmut Geiger.

Put into plain language, this means that when the pay did not stretch far enough, consumers simply saved less. This year's 13 per cent savings quota is the lowest in the past ten years.

But next year is supposed to see the real upturn. The economic research institutes forecast a growth of two per cent. The bankers' association even goes so far as to consider 2.5 per cent possible, describing this as a reason to "look to 1984 with some confidence."

Westdeutsche Landesbank analysts are even more optimistic about industrial output. They speak of 3.5 per cent.

But even if these forecasts are accurate the would be little improvement for the unemployed.

"The job market remains the main problem for our economic policy despite the favourable economic development," says the bankers' association.

The "favourable development" will do no more than offset last year's decline. Taking into account that there was a negative GNP growth in 1982, this year's one per cent growth boils down to zero.

And even two or 2.5 per cent growth next year would only just be enough to offset the decline of the past few years. And since productivity continued to rise during that period, fewer people are now needed to make the same quantity of goods.

Economic cycles are no longer what they used to be. Structural changes and saturated markets prevent the economy from rising to a markedly higher level after a crisis.

With a whiff of nostalgia, Otmar Emminger draws attention to the fact that in 1968, the first recovery year after the 1967 recession, the growth rate was 5.8 per cent and that after the 1975 recession the following recovery year had a growth rate of 5.4 per cent.

Expectations for 1983 and 1984 were weak by comparison.

The economic research institutes fear that 1984 will see 2.4 million out of work (annual average) — 100,000 more than this year.

Although the Federal Labour Office reported that the seasonally adjusted number of jobless for September did not rise for the first time in three-and-a-half-years, there is nothing to indicate that the number of people out of work will go down in the foreseeable future.

Economic Affairs Minister Count Lambsdorff has assured *Bild Zeitung* that there will be "no horror figure like three million jobless." But even he expects this winter's peak unemployment to reach 2.7 million.

Thus for the unemployed it makes hardly any difference how growth rates are interpreted.

There is no likelihood of an upturn strong enough to markedly reduce unemployment, says the German Institute for Economic Research.

The Bundesbank says conditions for an upturn are not bad: "The financial

Continued on page 8

Retirement at 59 under new Bonn plan

The Cabinet has worked out details of a plan for retirement at 59. Retirement now is at 63 or 65, depending on pension conditions.

Under the new scheme, which is designed to reduce unemployment, workers aged 59 would be able to retire at 65 per cent of their last gross salary.

When replacement workers were hired, the Federal Labour Office would pay employers 40 per cent of the cash paid to the retiring workers.

The scheme, intended to come into force next year, would be valid until retiring workers reached normal retirement age, when they would quality for the normal pension.

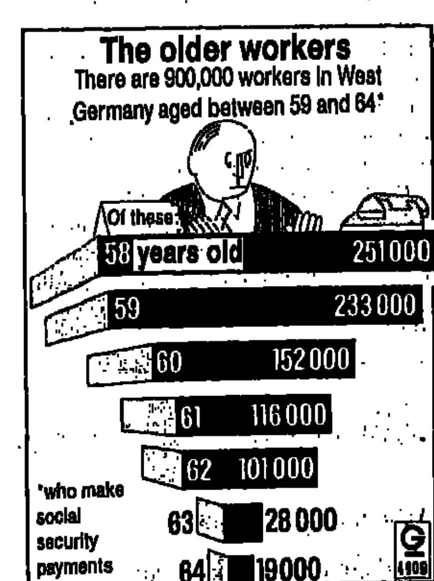
Labour Minister Norbert Blüm had to overcome stiff opposition from Finance Minister Gerhard Stoltenberg and Economic Affairs Minister Count Otto Lambsdorff to get Cabinet approval for the plan, which will run until the end of 1988.

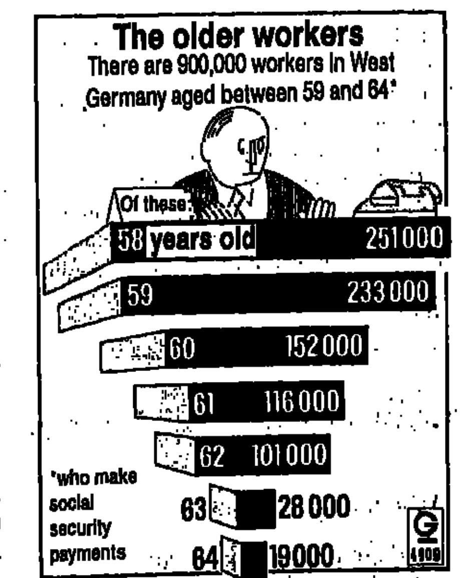
Labour Office calculations show that an employee earning about DM3,000 gross a month would take home DM1,500 based on 65 per cent of the gross. This is 70 per cent of his last net pay and is thus higher than unemployment benefit.

Special vacation and Christmas bonuses will not be subsidised by the Labour Office. But this does not mean they cannot be made part of a collective bargaining deal.

Since contributions to the pensions fund will be based on the lower preretirement pay, pensions will also be somewhat lower — on average, DM44.50 a month.

Blüm intends to support the scheme by tightening up on what is known as the 59 Plan. Under this, workers aged 59





and older and who have been unemployed for a year become eligible to draw pensions on reaching the age of 60.

This costs the pensions fund about DM1.7bn a year. The cost to the Labour Office is about DM700m.

Under the new provisions, unemployment benefits will only be paid to workers from shrinking branches of industry, says Blüm. Up to now, an employer laying off a worker aged 59 or over who has been with the company for ten years or longer has had to pay the worker's unemployment benefits unless he could prove that this would cause financial hardship.

Blüm considers the pre-retirement scheme as paving the way for a employment pact between the parties to collective bargaining.

He expects some 18,000 workers to make use of the scheme in its first year, followed by 72,000 and 78,000 respectively in the next two years.

About half of these vacancies could become jobs for the unemployed.

The scheme is unlikely to be offered to employees in the public sector due to tight finances, Blüm said.

He also stresses that the job market in that sector cannot be compared with private industry.

The Labour Ministry puts the cost of the new scheme to the state at an annual DM54m for each 10,000 retiring workers.

The Minister said that as soon as the financial position of the pensions fund permits the eligibility age for regular pensions will be made more flexible. But the age limit will not be lowered below 63.

Norbert Blüm also wants to review labour and social legislation and remove obstacles to more employment.

He wants to adapt company pensions schemes to the economic situation and allow employment contracts with a time limit.

Regulations governing protection for young people, women and the handicapped will be reviewed and provisions hampering their employment rescinded.

There is also to be a tightening of regulations to prevent the abuse of disability pensions. Part-time work is to be encouraged.

Wolfgang Koch

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 19 November 1983)



BUSINESS

Complaint panel for the upset customer

Christ und Welt
Rheinischer Merkur

People who think they have been cheated in business deals can take their complaint to a variety of arbitration panels.

There are car-repair panels, television-set repair panels, dry-cleaning panels and plumbing panels. The construction industry has a panel too.

Last year the car-repair trade's 88 panels heard about 11,500 cases.

More than half are settled without formal hearing and only one case in eight needs to be taken right through to a decision.

The panel tries to reach a compromise, and only when this fails, does it rule one way or the other.

Taking the case to the panel doesn't cost the applicant any money. Nor does it prevent him (or the car repair firm, for that matter) taking the case to the civil courts if he is not happy with the panel's decision.

The panel is not able to handle about one in four appeals because they are not within its jurisdiction. Repairs by back-yard operators for example.

The main complaint is the amount charged. Another is bad workmanship. There are not many complaints about unnecessary work.

Strangely enough the amounts involved are not always high. Most disputes deal with between DM100 and DM200.

People dissatisfied over second-hand car sales can take their case to any one of 29 panels established by the industry.

But upset customers do not have to go before a panel. Often a talk with the relevant trades organisation is enough to get an unbureaucratic solution.

Chambers of commerce also have many panels. A Chamber of Commerce and Industry survey shows that they handle an average of 25,000 complaints a year.

The construction industry has a panel, established in the middle of last year by the Rhine-Main Chamber of Trades.

It can draw on 35 experts in various fields of the construction industry. Disputes are usually settled quickly.

However, the panel charges a set fee, regardless of the amount at stake, and this acts as a deterrent.

If a formal hearing is needed, the panel makes an hourly charge. This means, of course that it is hardly worth pursuing cases involving small amounts.

On the other hand, where the amount in dispute is large, the panel is still much cheaper than a civil court.

In the case of this panel, it has legal standing. The winner of a case is recognised as such legally.

No German court has the same amount of expertise as this panel.

The advantages of resorting to it become obvious in the light of the drawbacks a court case in construction matters involves: lack of expert knowledge, draw-out proceedings and total alienation between the parties.

The construction panel has received more than 200 inquiries, about equally divided between customers and construction companies.

Amounts involved range between DM30,000 and DM60,000. Some are much more.

Far from all complaints reach the formal hearing stage. Some 20 cases have been settled by compromise, probably because of the cost factor.

The Frankfurt construction panel has become known way beyond Germany. Inquiries are made from European countries but from as far afield as Windhoek in South-West Africa and Adelaide, Australia.

Naturally, however, most come from German lawyers and chambers of trade and commerce.

The Frankfurt model is likely to spread.

Paul Bellinghausen

(Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt, 11 November 1983)

Improvement in the econom[y]

Continued from page 7

basis for a lasting upturn, essentially riding on investments, is better today than it has been in a long time, "It says in a report.

"This could pave the way for a sustained growth and an improvement in the employment situation, but only if the overall economic climate is not subjected to new strains."

But strains are in the offing. Such sick industries as coal, steel and shipbuilding will have to resort to mass layoffs, which could easily make consumers reluctant to buy.

The most powerful economic locomotive so far has been private consumption.

But Emminger says that consumers will no longer dip into their savings and that the reduced savings rate will prove a passing phenomenon.

Export hopes are also deceptive. During a visit to Singapore, former Chancellor Helmut Schmidt warned against pinning too much hope on a recovery of world trade.

He said that it was illusory to expect the American upturn to pull the rest of the world along.

He believes that it will take another two years before there is an upturn.

It would not be until October 1985, after the American elections, that Washington would formulate a new economic policy that could reduce its massive budget deficits. This, Schmidt said, would lead to falling interest rates world-wide, a major precondition for a recovery.

Both the unions and industry have urged the government to take action.

Labour wants to help the jo[bless by] fighting for a 35-hour work we[ek with full] pay.

Employers, on the other h[and, say] that a 35-hour week on full pa[y would] worsen unemployment.

Industry's fight against the 3[5-hour] week has won support from bo[th Bun]desbank President Karl Otto P[öhl and] Chancellor Helmut Kohl. They [are] against this type of shorter w[orking] hours as a means of fighting une[mploy]ment.

Even the Chancellor showed [...] concern over economic develop[ments at] the National Congress of Young [Chris]tian Democrats: "We are not y[et over] the hump," he said. "But we['re get]ting over it."

Industry says that just waiting f[or the] upturn is not enough.

The national federation of s[...] known in this country as Volks[banken] and Raiffeisenbanken said a cou[ple of] weeks ago that it was still wide [open] whether there was an upturn in the [mak]ing that could ride on its own m[omen]tum.

The Federation, promoting ind[ustry's] cause, urged a growth-oriented [...] policy - not to boost private de[mand] but to motivate the work force a[nd in]dustry.

It also urged the government to d[eli]ver on its promise to remove go[vern]ment obstacles.

Even if all this were to happen, t[he] at best three per cent growth ne[xt year] will do little for the jobless.

Richard G[...]

(Die Zeit, 18 Novemb[er 1983])

J. F. Kennedy

Continued from page 5

with the Vietnam War, the most tragic of all America's external entanglements.

There can be no denying that he was initially fascinated by guerrilla warfare. He had young Americans, the green berets, specially trained for guerrilla action. But he had not a single conscript sent to Vietnam.

Pulitzer Prize-winner David Halberstam, who has made out the Kennedy Liberalism of the "best and most intelligent" to be to blame for escalation in Vietnam, is subtler in his revisionism.

His view is that the brilliant activists and intellectuals surrounding Kennedy, such as Defence Secretary McNamara, dragged America into the swamps of Vietnam with their hubris and arrogance.

When this guilt theory is reduced to its nucleus it will be realised that blame may be laid on Kennedy Liberalism, but not on President Kennedy himself.

When he died there were 16,900 US military advisers in South Vietnam, and no ground forces. Shortly beforehand he had ordered the withdrawal of 1,000 advisers in protest against the dictatorial behaviour of President Ngo-Dinh Diem and his brother Nhu.

A few days after his death this order was quietly countermunded, a decision that was not lacking in symbolic significance.

The Kennedy team only became dangerous in connection with the Vie[tnam] commitment (at the height of which [half] a million Americans were fighting [the] Communist North) when they were [no] longer moderated by a thoughtful l[ea]der.

In 1962 Senator Mike Mansf[ield] made a pessimistic report to the Pr[esi]dent on the way in which America w[as] being dragged into the war.

Kennedy later said, in private: "I [was] annoyed at Mike and annoyed at my[self] for agreeing with him."

En route for Texas and the assassi[n's] bullet he told a personal acquaintan[ce] and an unimpeachable source of info[r]mation, that he had finally decided [to] withdraw all military advisers fr[om] Vietnam after re-election in 1964.

Herbert von Borch

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 19 November 1[983])

COMMUNICATIONS

[S]atellite TV: swamping the viewer with pictures

[G]eneral-Anzeiger

[Bet]ween five and 10 satellites laun[c]hed by Western European coun[tries] will within a few years be able to [beam] TV programmes beyond national [bord]ers.

[Tw]o satellites, one French, the other [Ger]man, will start the ball rolling at the [end] of next year or early in 1985. Each [will] relay five channels.

[So] in parts of Central Europe viewers [will] be able to receive between 20 and 40 [pro]grammes mostly through probably [dep]ending on special rooftop aerials.

[A] likely alternative is cable TV: the [pro]grammes would received at a ground [stati]on and then cabled in to domestic [cust]omers.

[I]n March 1982 the European Parlia[men]t called for uniform European regu[lati]ons governing the protection of [you]ng people from unsuitable transmis[sion]s and the use of advertising revenue [to f]inance programmes.

[P]roblems also seem likely to arise [ove]r copyright provisions.

[T]he EEC Commission in Brussels is [draf]ting proposals, but agreement will [als]o to be reached with Austria and [Swit]zerland as non-members of the [Com]mon Market.

[S]eparate arrangements may well need [to b]e made with Liechtenstein, Monaco [and] San Marino, and Spain and Portu[gal i]f they don't join the EEC.

[T]he European Parliament has also [call]ed for a European channel, to be re[laye]d round the clock on one of the five [chan]nels of each EEC national satellite.

[T]he idea is attractive. At present only [view]ers in the Benelux countries and [bor]der areas of France and Germany [can] see European affairs as others see [the]m.

[O]nly they can tune in to the neigh[bou]ring country's view of the European [fisc]al crisis or the advantages and disad[van]tages of the common agricultural [ma]rket.

[S]port and arts programmes could also [be t]ransmitted all over Western Europe. [Th]e current affairs coverage on the [Eu]ro-channel could give Italians, [Dan]es, British, Irish and French viewers [a c]learer idea of intra-German prob[lem]s, such as the GDR and Berlin.

[B]roadcasting authorities in several [Eu]ropean countries ran an experimental [...] programme for a week last year. It [wa]s supervised by Dutch TV.

[C]ontributors included Austrian, [Sw]iss, French, Italian and Yugoslav TV, [a]s Granada, the Manchester-based [Br]itish commercial operator, and ARD, Channel I of Federal Republic TV.

[S]imultaneous translation in six lan[gua]ges and subtitles in several others [hav]e since been considered a problem [tha]t can be solved.

[T]here also seem to be programme [...] and presenters who hold European [pol]itical and psychological views and [wou]ld be capable of cooperating in such [join]t ventures.

[P]olitical and current affairs coverage [nee]d by no means be abjectly pro-EEC. [Pr]ogrammes could merely take a European look at regional, national and world affairs.

The multinational and multilingual TV future grows steadily nearer for Western Europe and adjacent areas of the East Bloc.

But the mills of the EEC, the Council of Europe and even nation-states grind exceeding slow.

Socialists, Social Democrats and other progressive political forces are barricading themselves in most European countries behind a Maginot line that seems sure to be ridden over roughshod by technological developments.

They will hear no wrong of the current semi-official broadcasting corporations, which they feel guarantee a modicum of political balance, social awareness and even civic education.

They would prefer to see this role maintained at national level because of fears of foreign influence.

Rudolf Wedekind, a German Christian Democrat member of the European Parliament, outlines the shape of things to come in a realistic and by no means reactionary manner in his book *Plädoyer für das Europäische Fernsehen* (The Case for European TV).

Larger Western European countries such as Britain, France, Germany and Italy will be sure to want to use at least one of their five channels to beam programmes in their own or foreign languages at other countries.

Semi-official or commercial operators would be allocated the other channels depending on respective countries' financial positions and their governments' politics.

For financial reasons the satellites run by smaller countries would probably be farmed out entirely to commercial operators.

The Bundespost lays claim to a monopoly of aerials to receive satellite TV. Herr Wedekind feels this claim is unrealistic and possibly may not stand up in court.

Many felt Granada provided just as satisfactory and impartial coverage as the semi-official broadcasting corporations in last year's experiment.

Erich Hauser

(General-Anzeiger Bonn, 12 November 1983)

Dish of the future

The television aerial of the not-so-distant future. In a few years, dish antennas such as this one made by AEG-Telefunken will be a common sight on domestic roofs.

(Photo: AEG-Telefunken)

Technology brings information — in a pandora's box

Nordwest-Zeitung

About 650 manufacturers showed off the most advanced sound, vision and text transmission equipment at Telecom '83 in Geneva.

Their displays formed part of 70 national exhibits covering areas of up to 5,000 square metres, or one and a quarter acres, each.

The stand run by the three dozen least developed countries in the world, 36 Afro-Asian countries, was small in comparison.

They had little to show for themselves other than maps of enormous areas bereft of communications of any kind.

They symbolised the point made by Bonn Posts and Telecom Minister Christian Schwarz-Schilling in terms of telephones.

Three quarters of the world's telephones, he said, were in eight industrialised countries, whereas 150 countries shared the other quarter.

Telecommunication for Everyone was the motto of Telecom '73, organised by the International Telecommunications Union.

It was a motto that was music to the ears of the world's telecom industry. Countries with few facilities if any are an enormous potential market, always providing they can afford the outlay.

A geostationary satellite, for instance costs roughly $150m, plus a further $5m to $10m for ground station facilities.

Government and industry in advanced countries such as the Federal Republic of Germany are keen to finance projects of this kind.

The World Bank has so far invested two per cent of its aid in telecommunications technology. Much would have been achieved if this percentage were to be doubled.

At the ITU in Geneva officials stress that telecommunications don't follow in the footsteps of economic development; they are a prerequisite for it.

Another point made in Geneva was that a mere three satellites would be enough to meet the national TV network needs of the entire Third World.

Indonesia, which had a stand of its own, is a pattern of islands extending over an area of 4,000km (2,500 miles). It has run a telecom satellite of its own for eight years.

The main exhibitors in Geneva were the United States, the Federal Republic of Germany, France, Japan, Italy, Switzerland and Great Britain.

Each managed to corner up to 5,000 out of the total exhibition area of 72,000 square metres. The range of facilities they had on show extended from what housewives might need to telecom systems verging on science fiction.

Between these two extremes there were the more modest stands of the Scandinavian countries (a joint stand for Sweden, Denmark, Norway and Finland) or, say, Austria, which featured a genuine Vienna coffee house.

Then there were Belgium and Brazil, which was on its own in representing Latin America and boasted no fewer than 25 companies, including many multis.

Exhibiting alone was not enough, although many paying visitors will have been impressed by mock-up satellites or rockets, by gigantic dish antennas of ground and tracking stations.

They may well have noticed the pace at which Saudi Arabia and Morocco, for instance, are busy expanding their telephone networks.

But what mattered most to exhibitors was the trade representatives from countries all over the world who were in Geneva to order the most suitable equipment or entire systems for their governments.

Telecommunications is a DM150bn market that could easily be doubled in size, or so the industry hopes. So the incentive is certainly there.

But for an organisation such as the ITU, with a membership of 158 countries, profit naturally matters less than what might be termed higher values.

In this case it was a matter of the free exchange of information proclaimed by the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe in the Helsinki accords.

Technically this free flow is no problem, it was clear in Geneva. But it is an intractable problem for the politicians.

There are states that are not very interested in the idea, especially when the free exchange is spiced with political viewpoints.

Worse still, data protection problems also arise. With the growing opportunities for transmission there is an increasing risk of confidential information being handed on.

The legal side of telecommunications has assumed such importance that it was the subject of the first-ever special symposium on the subject as part of the ITU gathering.

It was attended by about 3,000 politicians, scientists, engineers and representatives of administration, industry and research.

Walter Meth

(Nordwest Zeitung, 1 November 1983)

■ LITERATURE

Hans Werner Richter and the influence of the disbanded Gruppe 47

Nordwest-Zeitung

Much has been written about novelist and literary organiser Hans Werner Richter, 75. It is striking how agreed people are in their praise of the man and his work.

His work is highly regarded. people are unstinting in their regard for Richter himself. He has close friends among writers in all ranks of the profession.

A wave of gratitude certainly swept in his direction in the *festschrift* to mark the end of the Gruppe 47 thirty years after it was founded in 1947.

Richter, 75 on 12 November, has told his tale, and that of the Gruppe 47, best himself in what was originally planned as a series of radio programmes.

Entitled How the Gruppe 47 Began and What It Was, it makes it clear that the group was not, and could not possibly have been, just a run-of-the-mill literary coterie.

He ran it throughout its 30-year life span. It owed to him its survival as a group of entirely individual and distinct writer personalities.

Its survival was also due to the way in which he arranged the group's meetings. He personally invited members to attend gatherings held at a wide range of venues.

They weren't just restricted to the cities where the literary world foregathers. The group met in small towns, in country inns, in stately homes and far away from the city lights in places you will hardly find on the map.

Richter as organiser of the meetings evolved the concept of reading, listening and criticising that was practised in a manner unprecedented among German literary groups this century.

Authors criticised the work of other authors before their work was presented to a wider public.

It was an experiment that led to friendships and enmities alike, but one man, Hans Werner Richter, was invariably on friendly terms with all concerned.

In retrospect, Gruppe 47 can definitely be said to have been the most important group of independent writers in the Federal Republic since the war. It made its mark on German writing.

Its origins were in the days of PoW camps and Allied occupation. It aimed to make a fresh start in literature. Richter himself only began writing during the war and in US internment as a prisoner-of-war.

He had previously been connected with literature as a bookseller. He was born in 1908 on the Baltic island of Usedom, where his father was a fisherman.

In Swinemünde he served an apprenticeship as a bookseller before moving to Berlin in the late 1920s to join the growing ranks of the unemployed.

He fought the Nazis, escaped to Paris, returned to Germany and saw active service in the Second World War: all stations in his life that supplied the material he was to use in his writing.

It began as journalism in his PoW camp. On his release from internment he went on to edit one of the first post-war literary magazines.

He and Alfred Andersch published *Der Ruf*, the legendary magazine of the post-war generation that was only able to voice its critical views in 1946 and 1947. It was then banned by the US military government.

His next magazine, to be entitled *Der Skorpion*, never got beyond the planning stage, but it formed the germ-cell of what later became the Gruppe 47.

The new magazine may have failed to get off the ground, but the group was launched later that year.

As a writer Richter was an immediate success with his first novel, *Die Geschlagenen*, 1949. It was translated into many languages. He was awarded the 1951 Fontane Prize.

The novel was a daring venture in its day, being the first book on the Second World War written by an ex-serviceman to be published in Germany.

He described personal experiences, such as the battle for Monte Cassino as seen from the German side, life as an American PoW in a camp where Nazi propagandists continued to terrorise the inmates with visions of a hopeless future.

His second novel, *Sie fielen aus Gottes Hand*, 1951, won him the 1952 René Schickele Prize. It took a wider, European view of what people ha[d] through.

Hans Werner Richter... beg[an] ... POW camp.

People in various European [countries] are portrayed in the fangs of ... ideologies locked in conflict.

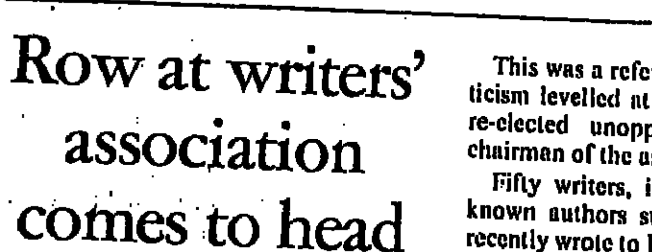
He also made a name for him[self as] literary editor, poetry publisher [and wri]ter of travel books. He went on [to write] a whole range of novels and ... about post-war social and p[olitical] trends.

He dealt with the *Wirtschafts[wunder]* or "economic miracle" of ... post-war reconstruction, and ... wing opposition to the course of ...

Spuren im Sande (Traces in the ...) is not only one of his best-kn[own] titles; it also indicates how ... how gone-with-the-wind any ... unearth traces of this kind must ...

Wolfgang Stauch-von Q...

(Nordwest Zeitung, 12 Nov...)



Row at writers' association comes to head

Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger

Bernt Engelmann and the other six members of the national executive committee of the German Writers' Association have resigned after serious disputes that have shaken the organisation.

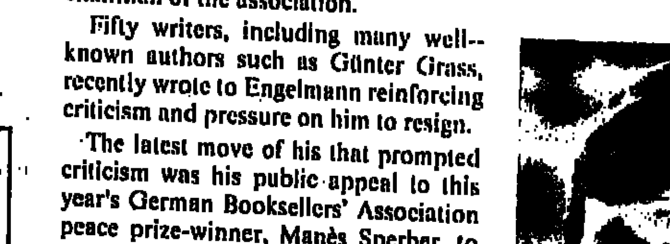
Munich novelist and writer Engelmann and his fellow-committeemen resigned after a meeting in Stuttgart. They will remain in office in a caretaker capacity until fresh elections are held next March.

The association is affiliated to IG Druck und Papier, the printing and paper workers' union. Its executive claims to have resigned to forestall a split in the association's ranks.

Their purpose in resigning was also to ensure a fresh start in trade union activity among members of the writing profession.

All seven, Engelmann, Gerd E. Hoffmann, Jürgen Lodemann, Irmela Brender, Angelika Mechtel, Svende Merian and Karlhans Frank, denied the allegations made against them.

They strongly objected to the defamation to which Herr Engelmann in particular had been subjected.



This was a reference to increasing criticism levelled at Engelmann, who was re-elected unopposed last spring as chairman of the association.

Fifty writers, including many well-known authors such as Günter Grass, recently wrote to Engelmann reinforcing criticism and pressure on him to resign.

The latest move of his that prompted criticism was his public appeal to this year's German Booksellers' Association peace prize-winner, Manès Sperber, to return the award.

Engelmann later said he had merely referred to Sperber having accepted the award by mistake.

The 50 letter-writers also took exception to an expression used by Engelmann in a letter to General Jaruzelski, the Polish leader.

Grass and the others felt the Writers' Association executive had in writing their letter called on the Polish authorities to set up a writers' association consisting of Quislings.

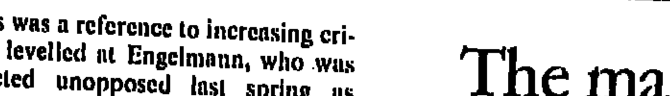
Engelmann said the letter, described by Grass as unacceptable, had been written at the end of August jointly with the German PEN Centre and couldn't be interpreted to mean what Grass implied.

In a letter to Grass Engelmann refuted allegations that were, he said, scandalous and ruinous for a writer and said he would be extremely relieved to relinquish his position as Writers' Association chairman.

Yet Grass, he hinted, was not prepared to take on the job, preferring to concentrate on his own manuscripts.

Peter Henkel

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 23 November 1983)



The man in eye of the storm





Bert Engelmann ... writing on the wall? (Photo: Sven Simon)

The figure long at the eye of the storm brewing in the German Writers' Association, Bernt Engelmann, was elected chairman in 1977 in Dortmund and re-elected unopposed last spring.

He was born in Berlin on 20 January 1921, is a member of the Social Democratic Party and is a left-winger in the writers' association.

He saw active service in the Second World War, was invalided out and began to study languages and sociology in 1942.

In 1944 he was convicted of active resistance to the Nazi regime and sent to concentration camp.

His experience of a brutal and unjust system of government in his youth will have been the main reason why, i[n his] life as a writer, he reacted so ... social injustice and violence, esp[ecially] from the right.

It may also account for the fact ... his sense of commitment has occa[sional]ly been too outspoken.

He worked for several years as ... nalist, including a spell with *Der [Spie]gel*, before working full-time as a ... from 1961.

He has written many extreme[ly suc]cessful books, some documentary ... half-fact, half-fiction. All have ... with unsatisfactory states of aff[airs] ... the capitalist economic wonder ... post-war West Germany.

His best-known books include ... Friends the Millionaires (follow[ed by]) My Friends the Managers), Pow[er on] the Rhine, Germany without Jews ... Balance Sheet, and The Reich Fel[l, the] Rich Remain.

You Up There, Us Down Here ... title of a book co-authored with ... Wallraff. (All titles are literal trans[lations] of the German.)

He is said to have had over sev[eral mil]lion copies of his books sold.

The disclosures he made public ... bound to lead to objections and ... tion, but in most cases Engelmann ...

As chairman of the Writers' As[socia]tion he presided over such major ... vations as the social security and ... sion fund for writers and artists, ... public lending right and legal ... writers.

(Westdeutsche Allgemeine, 23 Nove...)

[T]HE CINEMA

One courtroom-shooting drama, two good ways to make money

... films are being made about Ma[rian]ne Bachmeier, the woman who ... [Lü]beck courtroom shot dead the [ac]cused of murdering her daughter. ... would suggest that there is not ... other material in Germany wor[th t]urning into films. The only ques[tion is] one of which has the least taste.

... producer of one, Dieter Schidor, ...: "One film is intellectually taste[ful,] the other is just tasteless."

... directors are closely linked with ...w, though in different ways: Hark ..., whose film *Keine Zeit für Tränen* ([No] Time For Tears) will be made in ...burg, is a law graduate.

[Bu]rkhard Driest, whose *Annas Mutter* ([Ann]a's Mother) will be shot in Munich, ... ex-law student and subsequent ... robber who spent three-and-a-half ... behind bars.

[Dri]est's Marianne Bachmeier will be ... by Germany's newest star, Gu[drun] Landgrebe who made a name for ... in *Die flambierte Frau*.

... film's lead will be the Austrian ac[tress] Marie Colbin. He had at one point ... with the idea of having Marianne [Bachm]eier play herself.

... Bachmeier (left), director Bohm and actress Marie ... (Photo: Jens Waechter)

... DM3m for Driest's film is to be ... by private financiers while ...'s effort will largely be financed ... public sector promotion funds. ... are racing each other and are ... prodded on by the media.

... hundred copies of Bohm's film ... be released to German cinemas ... April (distributors: *Filmverlag der [Autor]en*, still controlled by *Spiegel* [publi]sher Rudolf Augstein).

[Dr]iest, who is slightly ahead in the ... is due to release 150 copies of his ... March (distributors: *Jugendfilm*).

... evidently elated Bohm answered ...ions in his Hamburg office.

... why I'm making the film? If Volker [Schlö]ndorff, who taught me my trade, [had b]een asked the same question, he ... have answered: 'Ask my an...'"

... added: "The first impulse to deal ... the story came when I became the ... of a baby girl. It was a heady af... to have a baby. And then you read ... press that a woman has shot her ...'s murderer in a courtroom.

... there is an instant emotional willingness to pay tribute to this woman. But at the same time you realise that you can't do that and you start pondering.

"That will be an important aspect of my film. And then there's the intellectual plane: the ineptitude of the judiciary that goes on wrecking an already wrecked life."

He said he spent one-and-a-half years in "this enormous and eerie maze of facts and emotions, trying to find some clarity."

He often visited Marianne Bachmeier in prison, and he followed the trial throughout. One of the coveted chairs in the first spectators' row was permanently kept available to him. This way, he got to know her milieu and her friends.

He says modestly: "I think I'm one of the people who knows most about the affair — not only the facts but also the emotions that led to the facts."

Shooting is now in progress with Marianne Bachmeier on the spot as "adviser." But the director does not like the term "adviser." "I must ask myself how a man who has been writing scripts and making movies for what I think is 14 years now can be advised by Marianne. The fact that she is supporting the project as much as she can is another matter." He does not believe that Bachmeier will be psychologically overloaded by collaborating in a film on her life. "I discussed the matter with expert psychologists who were professionally thoroughly familiar with Marianne. They welcomed my plans, saying that this could help her master the matter emotionally. "In no phase have I a bad conscience or a feeling of apprehension because I've always respected this woman — and she knows it." Bohm denies that he had contemplated having Marianne Bachmeier play herself. "No ... I really wonder where such rumours come from."

But Bachmeier herself mentioned in a TV magazine programme the possibility of a film debut. And Bohm repeatedly told his distributors that he thought that she should perhaps play herself.

Pit Schröder, until recently on the staff of *Filmverlag der Autoren*: "In a phone call, he asked me: 'What do you think about having her play herself? I think she would do it.' I told him 'I think nothing of it. Sure, it would be spectacular; but she's got no idea about film-making'."

Burkhard Driest at one point also toyed with the idea of putting her in front of the camera or at least having her take part in the making of the film.

But in a long and friendly telephone conversation with Driest she turned down his offer to meet for a talk.

He says: "She told me she was totally uninterested in any publicity and that she would like best to live on a desert island. I asked her if she wanted me to drop the whole idea. She told me: 'I'd rather you did it than someone else!.' " He says he was fascinated by Bachmeier from the moment he saw her picture on the cover of *Stern* magazine: "Those eyes! Like the eyes of an injured she-wolf." He says he found much of his own story in the material reporter Heiko

Continued on page 14



Director Driest and actress Gudrun Landgrebe. (Photo: Roger Fritz)

Directors accuse media multis of 'perverting communication'

Domination of the world's film industry by multinational media groups is perverting communication, allege leading directors.

This domination had led to standardisation of films and banality in the language used. The result would eventually be cultural, ideological, economic and technological dependence by film makers on the multis.

The directors issued the charges following the first world congress of film directors in the Portuguese island of Madeira.

In some countries, they said, the development of a national film culture was hampered by lumbering bureaucracies, censorship or intimidation.

The congress was orchestrated by Peter Fleischmann, president of Fera, the European film directors' association.

The meeting came about on the initiative of Pierre-Henri Deleau, the director of the Week of Film Directors at the annual Cannes Film Festival.

Portugal, the host country, generously funded the meeting and, during the congress, it was accepted as the 13th member nation of Fera.

The three-day Madeira event was attended by 160 directors from 47 countries.

They discussed commercial, artistic, moral and legal aspects of the film.

They also taked about the audio-visual media, the term one delegate said in a paper he wanted to replace the term "cinema."

This triggered a minor storm of outrage. What generally passes as the audi-visual media is the very thing most directors regard as a threat to their own work; and it was this threat that had prompted them to attend the meeting.

In their closing communiqué, the delegates reaffirmed their demand for what they call a cinema of the authors instead of a uniform cinematic stew. They opposed the so-called "balance of programmes," faceless products and watered down co-productions brought about by the pursuit of profit rather than an idea.

Fleischmann: "Our strength rests with national dishes — the Holstein cutlet, the French bouillabaisse and Italy's Parma ham."

Taking a swipe at the multinationals, he said: "Nobody knows the name of McDonald's chef de cuisine."

This authors' policy met with broad approval. It has become a central issue in the dispute over German film promotion, a dispute started by Bonn Interior Minister Friedrich Zimmermann.

The German delegates were delighted with the address by France's Culture Minister, Jack Lang, who had made a point of going to Madeira to speak.

Without actually naming Zimmermann, he said that France had long admired the German film promotion model. This made it the more regrettable now to see forces at work trying to dismantle this model.

Lang said that much of what was demanded in Madeira would soon be taken into account by French lawmakers.

This applied particularly to better copyright provisions for directors. In many countries they now had no stake in the profits.

Nor were they paid for the use of their works in such new media as satellite and cable TV or video cassettes and discs.

What more could one want from such a congress than suggestions and demands as well as formulation aids for national lawmakers?

There were a wide variety of delegates: from East Bloc nations, from the Third World, and from America's dream factories.

Fleischmann said at the end of the meeting: "The audio-vidual media have become so important that we, as film-makers, can no longer shirk the question as to our social responsibility.

"We must put our professional image in question time and again if we are not ourselves to be put in question."

The meeting decided to establish an international documentation centre as a first step.

Will all that the centre will one day be able to document be the end of the film culture as we know it today?

It took more than 80 years for the film-makers of the world to get together in a meeting.

Considering the rapid developement of the new media, it was held in the nick of time.

Bodo Fründt

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 16 November 1983)



■ THE ENVIRONMENT

Smoke problems from incinerating garbage

The 500 million tons of garbage a year in the Federal Republic of Germany would make a mountain as tall as the Zugspitze, Germany's tallest Alpine peak, delegates to a Berlin conference have been told.

Garbage incineration and smoke gas purification were discussed by about 350 experts from 11 countries. Other facts that emerged were:

Twenty-nine million tons is household garbage, which means that every man, woman and child in the country junks about half a ton of trash a year. And the figure is on the increase.

About 30 per cent of household garbage is disposed of in the 43 West German garbage incinerators. The first facility of this kind was built in Hamburg in 1896.

Nowadays most garbage incinerators do more than reduce the volume of domestic waste; they also generate electric power or provide piped heating.

A tonne of domestic waste will supply one and a half megawatts of piped heating. But garbage incineration imposes a heavy burden on the environment.

First, the remaining waste still has to be dumped or disposed of. Second, garbage contains much more problematic substances than are found in coal or oil.

On incineration they are either sent directly or indirectly as compounds. They include heavy metals, hydrocarbons and chlorine and fluorine products.

The Berlin conference looked into ways or purifying what is sent up the incinerator chimney stack, given that since 1974 newly-built garbage incinerators have had to comply with strict limits for chorine and fluorine compounds in the smoke they release into the atmosphere.

Smoke purification devices are now planned, under construction or already in operation at roughly 75 per cent of West German garbage incinerators, the conference organiser said.

He was Professor Thome-Kozmiensky of the department of technical environmental protection at the Technical University, West Berlin.

He said it was thus high time to compare the various purification processes and analyse their respective weak points.

Smoke gas purification is not the be-all and end-all it is sometimes made out to be. The problems that have arisen in connection with the various processes include their degree of efficiency, chemicals requirement and corrosion and the liquid and solid residue they leave behind.

Take the residue problem. In the wet wash process, which has so far predominated in practice, chlorine and fluorine compounds and, to a certain extent, sulphur dioxide are literally washed out of the smoke with water.

The washing water is extremely acid and thus needs to be neutralised using calcium hydroxide. The sludge is then separated from the water in a basin where it is given time to settle.

Yet the waste water remains strongly salinated and in many cases cannot be fed to a purification plant, let alone pumped into a river.

This effluent then had to be evaporated, Dr Fichtel of the Bavarian Environmental Protection Agency told the conference.

That left chloride, calcium and a little sulphate, all of which had to be protected from rainfall, or else they would dissolve in water again.

The affluent also contained a range of heavy metals, of which mercury was particularly problematic.

At the incinerator in Bamberg, for instance, the mercury count in the effluent regularly exceeded the limit beyond which water could not be pumped into the local-authority sewage grid.

So experiments had been undertaken with a chemical to make the mercury precipitate. About three kilograms of mercury a day had been extracted from the effluent in this way.

The sludge resulting from the washing process had a very high metal count. The better the process worked, the more heavy metal was separated.

But dried sludge could, unlike effluent, be stored as a rule on a domestic garbage dump.

Dr Schmidt-Tegge of the Federal Environmental Protection Agency in West Berlin said care must be taken to prevent the transfer of toxins from the air to the water cycle in future.

That would mean incinerator chimney smoke had to be dry-cleaned, a process of which experience has also been gained.

Smoke fumes at the Düsseldorf incinerator are cleaned by a technique described as semi-dry.

"The process is a mixture of the wet washing and the dry-cleaning techniques that largely avoids the drawbacks of each," said Dr marnet of Düsseldorf.

A reagent is sprayed into the hot smoke, where it forms compounds with the acid components, such as hydrochloride, hydrofluoride, sulphur dioxide and carbon dioxide.

The humidity evaporates in the heat, the dry neutral salts are filtered out together with the dust in the smoke. No affluent is left over.

In wet washing the smoke is chilled to below its point of condensation. In the Düsseldorf process it isn't, so there are no problems with corrosion.

In Düsseldorf the neutral salts are being stored on a garbage tip for the time being. But they might well be used, or so it is felt, in roadbuilding, for noise-abatement embankments and the like.

That would be in keeping with a further demand made by Dr Schmidt-Tegge, who wanted to see more attention paid to the reuse of residue reclaimed from the smoke.

The fluidised bed drier is totally dry in its manner of operation. The smoke is passed through a calcium hydroxide powder at high pressure. Toxin particles settle on the calcium hydroxide.

This technique has been found most satisfactory at Schwandorf garbage-fired power station, although the residue has to be stored on a special dump because of its high content of easily soluble substances.

It amounted to between 50kg and 70kg per tonne of garbage, said Herr Keller-Reinspach of Saarberg-Hölter-Lurgi GmbH.

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Adam ...

(Der Tagesspiegel, 20 November ...)

Purification of sewage 'can be profitable'

The money doesn't stink, the Roman Emperor Vespasian is reported to have said when surveying the proceeds of a tax on toilets.

This opithet could arguably be said to fit the findings of a conference on biological sewage purification held in Krefeld.

It may even be said to have applied in a twofold sense. Technical and microbiological improvements are making biological purification more effective and obviously, for one.

For another, biological purification can not only recoup costs but even make a profit, or so the VDI, or German Engineers' Association, which organised the gathering, claims.

Effluent purification is usually a two-stage process, the first being a mechanical stage at which some impurities are separated as sediment and sludge.

In the second, biological stage, micro-organisms are set to work to eat up the waste. They are usually aerobic bacteria that need an ample supply of oxygen for reproduction and for processing organic impurities (i.e. oxydising them into carbon dioxide and water).

In many purification plants the oxygen is merely available on the surface of the water in the basins, so basins have to be wide and shallow.

Bio-reactors, which are space- and energy-saving, are slimline towers in which air, including oxygen, is passed not just over the surface but throughout the water.

Air is fed to the bed of the reactor and spread by nozzles in the form of tiny bubbles that slowly rise to the surface, releasing oxygen as they go.

The oxygen in the air is put to better use in tall basins that in the conventional squat variety because the bubbles are in the water for longer and give off more of their oxygen.

Bio-reactors are already in operation in several German cities. They carry out biological sewage purification in a way that saves space and eliminates smell and noise.

For industrial effluent the bacteria count needs to be increased and the biochemical activity boosted. Heinz Brauer and associates at the Technical University, West Berlin, have devised an elevating jet reactor for this purpose.

The elevation is provided by punched discs arranged above each other in a cylinder and powered hydraulically. Eddies form at the holes.

This ensures that the bacteria tend to clog less and to expose a larger surface area to the effluent.

It also ensures that the air bubbles are constantly renewed, guaranteeing the best conceivable oxygen supply to the bacteria.

The elevating jet reactor can purify in between 15 and 30 minutes even extremely dirty effluent.

It is a small but high-powered purification unit that can decentralise the process, making it possible to treat effluent where it occurs.

A further advantage of decentralisation, according to Herr Cremer of the VDI in Düsseldorf, was that bacteria could be bred specially to deal with the specific category of effluent.

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Regina ...

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 18 Nov...)

MEDICINE

Allergies still a blotch for one in five

... in five Germans has an allergy. ... allergy research is still in its in...

... great French writer Marcel Proust ... ridden with asthma caused by ... to house dust when he wrote ... Remembrance of Things Past". ... lived today, he could have been ...

... Richard III of England turned ... after eating strawberries that had ... decked by his taster, the cook ... was back to normal a day later but ... Council lord he disliked was ... for attempted regicide by poi...

... Seattle, Washington, a 12-year-old ... boy died after being tossed into ... heated swimming pool by his ... What they did not know was ... was allergic to cold.

... is no end of substances or con... ... that can trigger an allergic reac... And there is no end to the conse... ... of such a reaction: shortness of ... hay fever, skin eruptions, itchi... ... that keeps people from sleeping ... blood pressure so low as to make it ... to summon the energy to get ... bed.

... but medical research a long time ... over some of the mechanisms be... allergic reactions.

... disorder was named by Viennese ... physician Clemens von Pirquet in ... He derived the name from *allos*, for "different" and *ergon* for "ef...

... It was once a "fashionable" dis... is now matter-of-factly seen as a ... in the body's reaction to envi... ... factors."

... 120,000 new chemical substan... synthesised every year – and a ... hundred of them can cause allergic ...

... some occupations, such as spray... chemistry and pharmaceutical ... one in three people have an al...

... why some people are allergic to ... substances remains a mystery. ... ventional medicine sees allergy as ... body's attempt to repel outside in... typically proteins. The proteins ... an allergic reaction is possible ... in the environment in count...

... Allergic reaction is in effect a mat... ... two contacts with a foreign pro... ... action at the first contact is not ... though a change takes place ... body.

... change is called a sensitisation. It ... strong adverse reaction to later ... with the protein. The protein ... the reaction is called an antigen, ... substances formed within the ... during the process of sensitisation ... as antibodies.

... antigen-antibody reaction (AAR) ... a tissue hormone known as his...

... all allergic reactions – rang... ... itchiness to fatal circulation ... can be blamed on this organ... ... pound.

... amine can be released by so many ... substances (and even by cold ... as to have made it impossible so ... come up with a complete list of

The effects also vary widely. Some patients' noses clog up daily at 5.00 p.m. Other people are sensitive to pollen in the second half of the year but are unaffected by it in the first half.

Dr Wolfgang Jorde, who heads an asthma hospital in Mönchengladbach, has tried to arrange the various antigens into categories:

● Allergy against food and medicine can be caused by milk, protein, eggs, fish, fruit, legumes, etc.

● Inhalation allergy that can lead to asthma can be caused by mushroom spores and pollen, household dust, wool and even the flakes on the spouse's skin.

● Skin allergies are put down to cosmetics, furs, flowers, metals, detergents and, in some cases, Christmas trees.

But it is still unknown why some people react to contact with an antigen by forming masses of antibodies while others are spared.

It takes a great deal of medical sleuthing to isolate relevant antigens. In fact, it takes exhaustive tests to determine if a suspected allergy actually exists.

The patient is injected with heavily diluted allergen extracts. The idea is to bring about an AAR conflict under controlled conditions and restrict it to a limited area.

The process can be risky. In some people, one-millionth of a gram of antigen is enough to cause a life-threatening anaphylactic shock. Many general practitioners are therefore hesitant to make the tests.

Once the allergen has been pinpointed comes the even more difficult task of devising a therapy.

Telling a patient that he is allergic to eggs is useless because the substances found in them also exist in bread, sweets and even in Campari.

This makes it even more difficult to eliminate the culprit antigen.

People who are allergic to air pollution or pollen are often forced to change their occupation or move to another place.

A new approach called "specific desensitisation" consists in administering small doses of the patient's antigen.

The treatment can extend over weeks or months or, indeed, years. But it has proved successful in 50 per cent of cases. Nobody knows why. *Peter Jentsch*

(Die Welt, 18 November 1983)

Why cigarettes should have more nicotine, not less

Cigarettes should have more nicotine, not less, says a cancer specialist.

Professor Ferdinand Schmidt writes in *Medical Tribune* that low-nicotine cigarettes only make the smoker smoke more to get the desired level of nicotine.

If cigarettes had more nicotine, smokers would be satisfied with fewer of them.

Tar, carbon monoxide and other poisonous substances should be reduced, he wrote, but not nicotine.

He also suggested the use of natural tobaccos instead of toasted because the latter tended to be inhaled more deeply.

Professor Schmidt, head of Heidelberg University's tumour research department, accuses the tobacco industry of just being clever in inventing cigarettes with low levels of damaging ingredients. It was a dangerous invention.

The number of smokers had been dropping since 1960 in industrialised countries, but cigarette sales had been rising steeply.

Fewer people were smoking more. Sales of low nicotine filter brands were climbing.

Professor Schmidt: "Reducing nicotine below a certain level has caused a reaction in smokers. They depend on a certain intake of nicotine. When they don't get it due to the filter or light tobaccos, they compensate by smoking more and inhaling more deeply."

Medical statistics show an increase in cancer despite the falling tar and nicotine content of cigarettes and despite the fact that the link between smoking and cancer is beyond dispute.

Professor Schmidt has compared the data of 792 bronchial cancer patients (97.3 per cent of them smokers).

The average age of death for smokers of filter cigarettes was lower than for those who smoked non-filtered brands.

Filters were also useless as a protection against stomach and duodenal cancer and ulcers, cancer of the mouth and other types of tumour.

Professor Schmidt suggests reducing the tar, carbon-monoxide and other poisonous substances in cigarettes but not nicotine.

"On the contrary: The nicotine content should be increased to enable the smoker to meet his personal nicotine needs with fewer cigarettes. This would at least reduce the intake of other harmful substances," he says.

He also suggests the use of natural tobaccos in cigarettes because the toasted variety is inhaled more deeply.

It would be relatively easy for the Bonn Health Ministry to pass the necessary regulations.

(Der Tagesspiegel, 18 November 1983)

School stress takes a toll of pupils

School ofter triggers psychosomatic illness in children, says an article in the medical journal *Ärztliche Praxis*.

The head of the psychosomatric department of Münster University's children's clinic, Professor Ingeborg Jochmus, writes that more children are being referred to psychiatrists.

Studies made in Heidelberg and Tübingen showed that in 1960 only one child in 12 had to be referred to a child psychiatrist, because of problems at school. The figure in 1969 was one in five and in 1976 one in three.

Professor Jochmus: "In addition to their school problems, these children suffered from insomnia, nightmares, bed-wetting, muscle twitching, involuntary reflex movements, stuttering, early morning nausea and other digestive tract disorders."

She blames school stress on several factors: "They are only partly due to our having developed into a performance-oriented society and the youngsters' uncertain future. The problems are frequently due to the children's own poor psychological development and lack of talent. Sometimes these shortcomings are of a partial nature like dyslexia, poor arithmetic and retarded speech."

Fear played a major role in psychosomatic disorders caused by school. An example: a child knows that it is weak in spelling. If it knows that it will have to take dictation at school the next day, worry leads to insomnia. This is often followed by biliousness and vomiting before leaving home.

The child arrives at school frightened and without having slept properly. The sugar level in the blood would go down markedly. Failure in the test was the result.

Professor Jochmus: "Most children are afraid that coming home with poor marks will distress their parents. Fear of failure is heightened by the parents' high expectations. The insomnia and the psychosomatic symptoms before going to school are thus intensified.

The disappointed parents imposed restrictions. This led to more problems.

She suggests that new insights into psychological diagnosis should provide the basis of a therapy. In the case she cited, the first thing to do would be to find out whether the child suffered from dyslexia or whether the underlying cause was an inability to concentrate.

Pills could only help as a support for educational and psychotherapeutic measures. In some cases, transfer to another school to ease the pressure on the child even more could help.

(Bremer Nachrichten, 19 November 1983)

Food contamination reports are exaggerated, dietists say

Quality control of food in Germany has improved greatly in recent years, a meeting of German food experts has been told.

Consumers had been unnecessarily alarmed by reports of harmful substances in food. There were very few cases where contaminants exceeded prescribed limits.

The meeting, of the Frankfurt-based dietary society, dealt with contamination of food by heavy metals, nitrates, insecticides and agricultural drugs.

Professor Wolfgang Gedek of the Bavarian Veterinary Authority said that the use of antibiotics, hormones and drugs in livestock farming showed no indication of health hazards to the consumer.

He justified the use of these growth promoting substances. They were essential if the animals were to gain weight rapidly and make better use of their feed. "Animal farming on today's scale would be impossible without these aids."

Professor Johannes-Friedrich Diehl of the Federal food research centre in Karlsruhe said the World Health Organisation had found that the limits set by the German authorities for lead and mercury were undercut by 70 per cent. The figure for cadmium was 50 per cent.

There was no reason for concern. The public had barely taken note of the improvements since 1976.

Then, the maximum tolerance levels for lead were exceeded by ten per cent. Cadmium contamination reached almost 100 per cent of the permissible level, and mercury 60 per cent.

Cadmium intake through cigarette-smoking was more dangerous.

Smokers' bodies contained three times the amount of non-smokers'.

Professor Gerhard Eisenbrand, of Kaiserslautern University, said that people smoking an average of 20 cigarettes a day absorbed 30 times the amount of carcinogenic nitrosamines absorbed by non-smokers.

Compared with this, the nitrosamines found in lettuce, spinach, cured meat and beer were negligible. *dpa*

(Westdeutsche Allgemeine, 21 November 1983)

■ THE ENVIRONMENT

Smoke problems from incinerating garbage

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Garbage incineration and smoke gas purification were discussed by about 350 experts from 11 countries. Other facts that emerged were:

Twenty-nine million tons is household garbage, which means that every man, woman and child in the country junks about half a ton of trash a year. And the figure is on the increase.

About 30 per cent of household garbage is disposed of in the 43 West German garbage incinerators. The first facility of this kind was built in Hamburg in 1896.

Nowadays most garbage incinerators do more than reduce the volume of domestic waste; they also generate electric power or provide piped heating.

A tonne of domestic waste will supply one and a half megawatts of piped heating. But garbage incineration imposes a heavy burden on the environment.

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The Berlin conference looked into ways or purifying what is sent up the incinerator chimney stack, given that since 1974 newly-built garbage incinerators have had to comply with strict limits for chorine and fluorine compounds in the smoke they release into the atmosphere.

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Smoke gas purification is not the be-all and end-all it is sometimes made out to be. The problems that have arisen in connection with the various processes include their degree of efficiency, chemicals requirement and corrosion and the liquid and solid residue they leave behind.

Take the residue problem. In the wet wash process, which has so far predominated in practice, chlorine and fluorine compounds and, to a certain extent, sulphur dioxide are literally washed out of the smoke with water.

The washing water is extremely acid and thus needs to be neutralised using calcium hydroxide. The sludge is then separated from the water in a basin where it is given time to settle.

Yet the waste water remains strongly salinated and in many cases cannot be fed to a purification plant, let alone pumped into a river.

This effluent then had to be evaporated, Dr Fichtel of the Bavarian Environmental Protection Agency told the conference.

That left chloride, calcium and a little sulphate, all of which had to be protected from rainfall, or else they would dissolve in water again.

The affluent also contained a range of heavy metals, of which mercury was particularly problematic.

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So experiments had been undertaken with a chemical to make the mercury precipitate. About three kilograms of mercury a day had been extracted from the effluent in this way.

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That would mean incinerator chimney smoke had to be dry-cleaned, a process of which experience has also been gained.

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Marion [...]

(Der Tagesspiegel, 20 Novemb[er 1983])

Purification of sewage 'can be profitable'

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This epithet could arguably be said to fit the findings of a conference on biological sewage purification held in Krefeld.

It may even be said to have applied in a twofold sense. Technical and microbiological improvements are making biological purification more effective and odourless, for one.

For another, biological purification can not only recoup costs but even make a profit, or so the VDI, or German Engineers' Association, which organised the gathering, claims.

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Regina O[...]

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 18 Nove[mber 1983])

[M]EDICINE

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[Kin]g Richard III of England turned [...] after eating strawberries that had [been] checked by his taster, the cook [him]self.

[He] was back to normal a day later but [the] Council lord he disliked was [behead]ed for attempted regicide by poi[son].

[In] Seattle, Washington, a 12-year-old [...]boy died after being tossed into [an un]heated swimming pool by his [...]. What they did not know was [that he] was allergic to cold.

[The]re is no end of substances or con[ditions] that can trigger an allergic reac[tion]. And there is no end to the conse[quen]ces of such a reaction: shortness of [breath], hay fever, skin eruptions, itchi[ness] that keeps people from sleeping [or b]lood pressure so low as to make it [...]lt to summon the energy to get [out of] bed.

[It t]ook medical research a long time [to disc]over some of the mechanisms be[hind a]llergic reactions.

[The] disorder was named by Viennese [pae]diatrician Clemens von Pirquet in [...]. He derived the name from *allos*, [Greek] for "different" and *ergon* for "ef[fect]".

[It] was once a "fashionable" dis[ease but] is now matter-of-factly seen as a [chang]e in the body's reaction to envi[ronme]ntal factors."

[Som]e 120,000 new chemical substan[ces ar]e synthesised every year -- and a [hu]ndred of them can cause allergic [reacti]ons.

[In so]me occupations, such as spray[ing, ...]g, chemistry and pharmaceutical [resear]ch, one in three people have an al[lergy].

[Just] why some people are allergic to [some] substances remains a mystery.

[Con]ventional medicine sees allergy as [the bo]dy's attempt to repel outside in[truders], typically proteins. The proteins [with whi]ch an allergic reaction is possible [are pr]esent in the environment in count[less fo]rms.

[An a]llergic reaction is in effect a mat[ter of t]wo contacts with a foreign pro[tein. R]eaction at the first contact is not [eviden]t, though a change takes place [in] the body.

[This] change is called a sensitisation. It [causes] a strong adverse reaction to later [contac]ts with the protein. The protein [causing] the reaction is called an antigen, [th]e substances formed within the [body d]uring the process of sensitisation [are kno]wn as antibodies.

[The] antigen-antibody reaction (AAR) [release]s a tissue hormone known as his[tamine].

[Almo]st all allergic reactions — rang[ing fro]m itchiness to fatal circulation [failur]e — can be blamed on this organ[ic comp]ound.

[Hista]mine can be released by so many [differe]nt substances (and even by cold [...]) as to have made it impossible so [far to c]ome up with a complete list of [...]

The effects also vary widely. Some patients' noses clog up daily at 5.00 p.m. Other people are sensitive to pollen in the second half of the year but are unaffected by it in the first half.

Dr Wolfgang Jorde, who heads an asthma hospital in Mönchengladbach, has tried to arrange the various antigens into categories:

- Allergy against food and medicine can be caused by milk, protein, eggs, fish, fruit, legumes, etc.
- Inhalation allergy that can lead to asthma can be caused by mushroom spores and pollen, household dust, wool and even the flakes on the spouse's skin.
- Skin allergies are put down to cosmetics, furs, flowers, metals, detergents and, in some cases, Christmas trees.

But it is still unknown why some people react to contact with an antigen by forming masses of antibodies while others are spared.

It takes a great deal of medical sleuthing to isolate relevant antigens. In fact, it takes exhaustive tests to determine if a suspected allergy actually exists.

The patient is injected with heavily diluted allergen extracts. The idea is to bring about an AAR conflict under controlled conditions and restrict it to a limited area.

The process can be risky. In some people, one-millionth of a gram of antigen is enough to cause a life-threatening anaphylactic shock. Many general practitioners are therefore hesitant to make the tests.

Once the allergen has been pinpointed comes the even more difficult task of devising a therapy.

Telling a patient that he is allergic to eggs is useless because the substances found in them also exist in bread, sweets and even in Campari.

This makes it even more difficult to eliminate the culprit antigen.

People who are allergic to air pollution or pollen are often forced to change their occupation or move to another place.

A new approach called "specific desensitisation" consists in administering small doses of the patient's antigen.

The treatment can extend over weeks or months or, indeed, years. But it has proved successful in 50 per cent of cases. Nobody knows why.

Peter Jentsch

(Die Welt, 18 November 1983)

Why cigarettes should have more nicotine, not less

Cigarettes should have more nicotine, not less, says a cancer specialist.

Professor Ferdinand Schmidt writes in *Medical Tribune* that low-nicotine cigarettes only make the smoker smoke more to get the desired level of nicotine.

If cigarettes had more nicotine, smokers would be satisfied with fewer of them.

Tar, carbon monoxide and other poisonous substances should be reduced, he wrote, but not nicotine.

He also suggested the use of natural tobaccos instead of toasted because the latter tended to be inhaled more deeply.

Professor Schmidt, head of Heidelberg University's tumour research department, accuses the tobacco industry of just being clever in inventing cigarettes with low levels of damaging ingredients. It was a dangerous invention.

The number of smokers had been dropping since 1960 in industrialised countries, but cigarette sales had been rising steeply.

Fewer people were smoking more. Sales of low nicotine filter brands were climbing.

Professor Schmidt: "Reducing nicotine below a certain level has caused a reaction in smokers. They depend on a certain intake of nicotine. When they don't get it due to the filter or light tobaccos, they compensate by smoking more and inhaling more deeply."

Medical statistics show an increase in cancer despite the falling tar and nicotine content of cigarettes and despite the fact that the link between smoking and cancer is beyond dispute.

Professor Schmidt has compared the data of 792 bronchial cancer patients (97.3 per cent of them smokers).

The average age of death for smokers of filter cigarettes was lower than for those who smoked non-filtered brands.

Filters were also useless as a protection against stomach and duodenal cancer and ulcers, cancer of the mouth and other types of tumour.

Professor Schmidt suggests reducing the tar, carbon-monoxide and other poisonous substances in cigarettes but not nicotine.

"On the contrary: The nicotine content should be increased to enable the smoker to meet his personal nicotine needs with fewer cigarettes. This would at least reduce the intake of other harmful substances," he says.

He also suggests the use of natural tobaccos in cigarettes because the toasted variety is inhaled more deeply.

It would be relatively easy for the Bonn Health Ministry to pass the necessary regulations.

(Der Tagesspiegel, 18 November 1983)

Food contamination reports are exaggerated, dietists say

Quality control of food in Germany has improved greatly in recent years, a meeting of German food experts has been told.

Consumers had been unnecessarily alarmed by reports of harmful substances in food. There were very few cases where contaminants exceeded prescribed limits.

The meeting, of the Frankfurt-based dietary society, dealt with contamination of food by heavy metals, nitrates, insecticides and agricultural drugs.

Professor Wolfgang Gedek of the Bavarian Veterinary Authority said that the use of antibiotics, hormones and drugs in livestock farming showed no indication of health hazards to the consumer.

He justified the use of these growth promoting substances. They were essential if the animals were to gain weight rapidly and make better use of their feed. "Animal farming on today's scale would be impossible without these aids."

Professor Johannes-Friedrich Diehl of the Federal food research centre in Karlsruhe said the World Health Organisation had found that the limits set by the German authorities for lead and mercury were undercut by 70 per cent. The figure for cadmium was 50 per cent.

There was no reason for concern. The public had barely taken note of the improvements since 1976.

Then, the maximum tolerance levels for lead were exceeded by ten per cent. Cadmium contamination reached almost 100 per cent of the permissible level, and mercury 60 per cent.

Cadmium intake through cigarette smoking was more dangerous.

Smokers' bodies contained three times the amount of non-smokers'.

Professor Gerhard Eisenbrand, of Kaiserslautern University, said that people smoking an average of 20 cigarettes a day absorbed 30 times the amount of carcinogenic nitrosamines absorbed by non-smokers.

Compared with this, the nitrosamines found in lettuce, spinach, cured meat and beer were negligible.

dpa

(Westdeutsche Allgemeine, 21 November 1983)

School stress takes a toll of pupils

School ofter triggers psychosomatic illness in children, says an article in the medical journal *Ärztliche Praxis*.

The head of the psychosomatric department of Münster University's children's clinic, Professor Ingeborg Jochmus, writes that more children are being referred to psychiatrists.

Studies made in Heidelberg and Tübingen showed that in 1960 only one child in 12 had to be referred to a child psychiatrist because of problems at school. The figure in 1969 was one in five and in 1976 one in three.

Professor Jochmus: "In addition to their school problems, these children suffered from insomnia, nightmares, bed-wetting, muscle twitching, involuntary reflex movements, stuttering, early morning nausea and other digestive tract disorders."

She blames school stress on several factors: "They are only partly due to our having developed into a performance-oriented society and the youngsters' uncertain future. The problems are frequently due to the children's own poor psychological development and lack of talent. Sometimes these shortcomings are of a partial nature like dyslexia, poor arithmetic and retarded speech.

Fear played a major role in psychosomatic disorders caused by school. An example: a child knows that it is weak in spelling. If it knows that it will have to take dictation at school the next day, worry leads to insomnia. This is often followed by biliousness and vomiting before leaving home.

The child arrives at school frightened and without having slept properly. The sugar level in the blood would go down markedly. Failure in the test was the result.

Professor Jochmus: "Most children are afraid that coming home with poor marks will distress their parents. Fear of failure is heightened by the parents' high expectations. The insomnia and the psychosomatic symptoms before going to school are thus intensified.

The disappointed parents imposed restrictions. This led to more problems.

She suggests that new insights into psychological diagnosis should provide the basis of a therapy. In the case she cited, the first thing to do would be to find out whether the child suffered from dyslexia or whether the underlying cause was an inability to concentrate.

Pills could only help as a support for educational and psychotherapeutic measures. In some cases, transfer to another school to ease the pressure on the child even more could help.

(Bremer Nachrichten, 19 November 1983)

The German population is declining. Families are becoming smaller. If the birth rates continue to be the world's lowest, there will be only 38 million Germans in the year 2030, Bonn Family Affairs Minister Heiner Geissler told the German Paediatric Society.

It was regrettable that more and more children were growing up without brothers and sisters. The average German family now had only 1.5 children.

One-child families are also becoming prevalent among the members of parliament. In the Adenauer era there were many MPs with large families. Not now. Right now only three MPs have none children.

Today, 57 per cent of German families have only one child. Growing up without brothers and sisters, once regarded as a curse, is now common.

The only child was once seen as being spoiled and selfish. And the moment it behaved differently from other children, people would say: "What can you expect? It's an only child."

"It is now known that the child is not the problem case it was once made out to be," says Bonn psychology Professor Ursula Lehr.

But prejudices towards the one-child family are still deep-rooted.

America started re-thinking on this after the first astronauts went to the moon: It turned out that each was an only child. All were picked for their outstanding intelligence, daring and stamina.

Was it mere coincidence that all these astronauts grew up without brothers and sisters and therefore had parental love lavished on them? Psychologists — not only in the USA — began to look into this question.

Some time ago, the German Research Association commissioned two sociologists to study the lives of women who had carved out a career for themselves.

■ MODERN LIVING

Changing attitudes towards the only child

They found that 70 per cent of these women — politicians, top civil servants, managers, entrepreneurs, architects, scientists and journalists — either grew up as only children or with brothers and sisters far apart in age.

"The fact that these women found themselves in a 'pioneer situation' from birth moulded their attitudes in later life," the two sociologists say.

The women they interviewed were not afraid to tackle something new. They were dynamic and did not shirk decisions.

Psychologists say this self-confidence, the basis of success in business and society, is because of the added attention first-born children receive.

Both mother and father devote most of their affection to their first child. If this child remains the only one, it continues to receive this undivided affection until it reaches adulthood.

Psychologist Magda Neuerer says: "In this way, the only child is spared many a frustration."

In her book *Elternlexikon* (Parents' Encyclopedia) she explains why the only child usually copes with life rather well: its parents often both work and therefore do not have the time to fuss.

This makes the child substitute school friends for brothers and sisters.

Parents, too, have changed in the past years: fathers are no longer as authoritarian as they used to be, and mothers have increasingly assumed the role of a friend. There is generally more of an atmosphere of friendship than a few decades ago.

The only child is, however, in danger of being over-cosseted by its parents. Some mothers are too protective, which does not encourage initiative in the child.

It is important for the only child to experience life in a group, psychologists say. Even as a six-month-old, it should spend a few hours a week playing with other children of the same age to learn social attitudes. "In addition, only children need a challenge," says Magda Neuerer.

It is wrong for parents to smooth all difficulties for them. Children who receive too much attention in the family will later demand the same attention from society. They want to continue being the focal point.

Psychologists are pretty much agreed that in most cases the only child's intellectual developement is splendid in a normal family.

It is imaginative, knows how to express itself, and its arguments are clever. It is usually highly motivated, though it frequently has problems within a group because it has not learned to adjust.

But psychologists warn against overemphasising this because children from large families also tend to grow up with problems.

Studies show that many of those children from big families are not particularly successful at school and in their working lives. They lack motivation and are often not capable of expressing themselves.

The larger the family, the greater the likelihood of an authoritarian upbringing with many "don'ts." This leads to a certain rivalry among children, leading to unresolved frustrations.

Such an atmosphere makes it difficult to develop positive sentiments towards the parents.

Young people's reactions to both an authoritarian and an over-protective upbringing are similar. In both cases they increasingly seek refuge among others of the same age, whose influence becomes dominant.

"The Germans are headed towards becoming a society of only children," says Frankfurt sociologist Dr Almut Steger.

This trend would become more pronounced, and in the year 2000 more than 20 per cent of the population would live in one-person households, she says in a study.

No matter how much the family affairs minister deplores this, all indicators show that birth rates will decline still further.

Though this is the time when those born in the high birth rate years will found families, the subsequent trend will be downward again, experts say.

Predicts Almut Steger says some 40 per cent of women capable of child bearing will remain childless around the year 2000. The trend towards one-child families will increase as early as next decade.

Sigrid Latka-Jöhring

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 12 November 1983)

The cinem[a]

Continued from page [...]

Gebhardt gave him to read: "[...] hurts, the same rage."

He indignantly rejects an[...] of speculation: "What's [...] supposed to mean in this conte[...] actions are not governed by [...] on financial success because [...] vinced that any such reckoni[...] prove wrong."

But why do the Bachmeier [...] Driest: "Originally I wanted [...] another film. But all promotio[...] rejected it out of hand. Nob[...] prepared to give a penny... I [...] make a film without a mark to [...] The Bachmeier story is bould to [...] and that's why private film co[...] were prepared to finance it."

Bohm has not one but thre[...] sector sponsors: the Film Promo[...] stitute, the Hamburg Business [...] tion and the so-called referen[...] allotted on the basis of tickets [...] the previous film made by him. [...] tion, television is in on the Bo[...] sion.

Driest's application for fund[...] recently turned down by the [...] Film Promotion Centre withou[...] ment.

His film will be backed by a [...] tion guarantee, involvement by [...] Atze Brauner and private f[...] through the investment compa[...] This is helped by a change in [...] law.

One of the co-producers, bri[...] the copyright for the series *A[...]ter*, is the publishing house Gr[...] Jahr (but not *Stern* which is [...] by it).

Long before shooting of the t[...] films started, Driest telephoned [...] find out whether the two project[...] clash. He says Bohm put him [...] telling him that he would concen[...] the problems surrounding the [...] of little Anna. Bachmeier, he s[...] not interest him all that much.

Driest: "I told him okay and [...] him to give me a ring if there sh[...] a change. I've heard nothing [...] from him."

Things have changed in the me[...] Hark Bohm: "Burkhard and [...] under no circumstances find ou[...] in a clinch. I couldn't care less [...] distributor Wohlrabe or Marian[...] yers do. All that matters is the [...] films that will get to the cinema[...] thing that happens in this dire[...] good for us. We're benefiting ea[...] by doing it simultaneously."

He elaborates: "I rather belie[...] the public doesn't want any [...] Bachmeier. People only find it [...] that we should both be making th[...] at the same time."

Driest would like Bohm to fin[...] version so that he can see it to [...] my own work. I find this interesti[...]

"I wish Hark Bohm the best o[...] We started together and I wish we [...] finish together," says Driest [...] friendly smile.

The producer of Driest's film, [...] Schidor: "I can well imagine th[...] film to be released first will mak[...] money. The two films could be a [...] fice success. There'll be quite a s[...] I believe that they will in no way [...] German film any further, as [...] Fassbinder's films did."

Fritz Müller-S[...]

(Die Zeit, 2[...] Octob[er ...])

CRIME

Hamburg police clamp down as gangs tighten their grip

[Or]ganised crime is a growing problem in all built-up areas. In Ham[burg] it has forced the police and the law [to em]bark on a flurry of activity.

[Spe]cial departments have been set up [and] staffed with under-cover agents. [Addit]ional public prosecutors and jud[ges ha]ve been appointed to crack down [on g]angs.

[Org]anised crime in northern Germany [is lar]gely based around Hamburg's red [light] district of St Pauli.

[St] Pauli is safer than it used to be for [visito]rs to the strip clubs and clip joints. [As] a rule they are no longer robbed or [made] to pay inflated bills at pistol-point [or un]der other duress.

[But] organised crrime is growing. A [few ye]ars ago there were said to be signs [of ga]ngs. Now gangs threaten to become [a perm]anent feature.

[Th]e port of Hamburg is a particularly [specifi]c breeding-ground for theft and [fencing] stolen property, for blackmail [(espe]cially "protection money"), prosti[tution] and living off immoral earnings, [illegal] gaming, illegal immigration and [runni]ng illegal labour agencies.

[Dea]ling in stolen cars (especially the [luxury m]arket variety), bribery, slave-trad[ing an]d every conceivable breach of the [Fire]arms Act: all offences are represen[ted].

[To combat org]anised crime, the Senate recently [...] the city council, has taken on new [...], especially conspiracy and divi[sion] of labour.

[In]creasing brutality was apparent, [partic]ularly in the use of firearms, and not just in dealing with victims. Shootouts between gangs are increasingly frequent.

Gangs have grown increasingly barefaced from year to year, staking their claims to various areas of St Pauli in particular and defending their territory by force of arms.

The police definitely left them to fight it out among themselves for too long. This was due less to lack of enthusiasm on the part of officers on the spot than to poor leadership (if any) of the force.

The Hamburg police were in the throes of a crisis that immobilised them where fighting crime was concerned.

Former police chief Günther Redding was not up to the job. Shortly before he retired thieves even stole jewellery from his home.

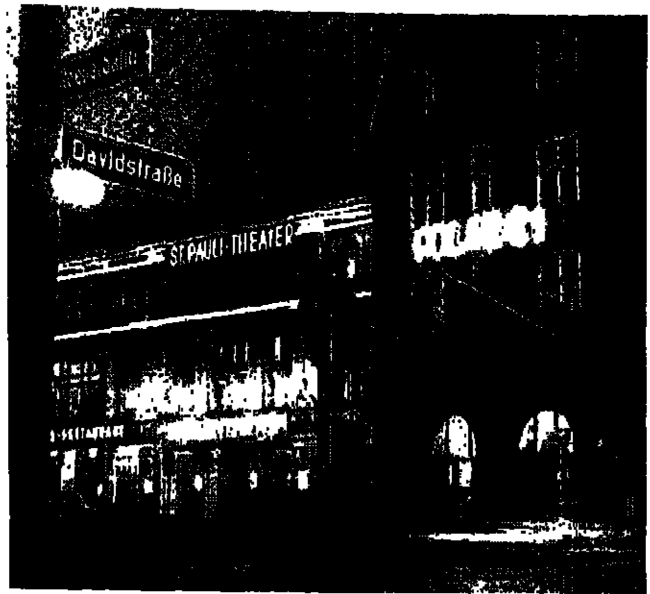
Less senior officers were suspected of making common cause with the underworld or of failing to avoid in time the impression that they were doing so.

Officers themselves fell foul of the law, being tried and convicted of offences ranging from dealing in stolen goods to trading in narcotics.

The Senate, or municipal authority, realised something had to be done. A special commission was set up to look into allegations.

It consisted of representatives of the police and the public prosecutor's office. They spent 18 months checking 900 allegations against nearly 300 people, including 99 public officials.

A number of police officers were taken to court, and the Hamburg police larceny squad was abolished. A special department set up by Home Affairs Senator Alfons Pawelczyk has now set its sights on organised crime. It consists of 45 hand-pickedofficers and clerical staff. They have the latest equipment and are entitled to use under-cover agents. Their instructions also allow them leeway in other respects.



Red (and other) light at night, the gangster's delight. Hamburg's Davidswache police station in the notorious St Pauli district. (Photo: Archiv)

Several spectacular large-scale raids by CID squads, some in conjunction with the inland revenue's flying squad, have notched up initial successes.

After long, hard work Wilfried Schulz, a self-styled restaurateur and businessman, boxing promoter and longstanding uncrowned king of the St Pauli underworkd, was put behind bars.

He had often been taken into custody, but seldom for long. The police never had enough evidence to keep him behind bars.

Schulz, 55, has now been "inside" for over a year and will be standing trial on charges of encouraging prostitution, being an accessary to perjury, helping others to commit forgery and being associated with bribery and corruption.

Wilfried Schulz and his associates are due to stand trial. So are a group of pimps known by the initials GmbH and Hamburg's Hell's Angels (who have even been banned by the Bonn Interior Ministry).

So three large-scale trials are in the pipeline. A special unit of the public prosecutor's office has been set up to handle cases brought to light by the police special department.

Two new chambers at the county court have been set up to ensure that the accused are not released before their cases come up (as has happened in the past) because legal deadlines couldn't be met.

In the heart of St Pauli, alongside the clip joints on Grosse Freiheit, there is a Catholic church, St Joseph's. It has a sign on the gate saying: "There is nothing Jesus can't handle."

Senator Pawelczyk hopes he will be able to say the same of his police.

Uwe Bahnsen

(Die Welt, 14 November 1983)

Sweatshop job agencies cash in on cheap foreign labour

[Th]e law is cracking down on illegal [jo]b agencies many of which profi[t b]y paying sweatshop rates to for[eign] workers.

[A] squad of 60, including police, [th]e prosecutors, labour and revenue [officia]ls, last month raised a Munich [firm] and took away nearly 1,000 files.

[Th]e company, with representatives all [over] the world, trades in industrial plant [constr]uction and service activities.

[It c]laims to have a staff of 700 cons[tructi]on workers in Europe, mainly [...] and Filipinos. But the evidence of [il]legal activity was so overwhelming that [...] members of staff have been arrested and are awaiting trial.

[Th]eir trick was to charge construction [firms] about DM35 an hour per man [...]ed but to pay the men a mere DM9 [or DM]13.

[The]y pocketed the difference, inclu[ding] tax and social security deductions. [Th]at way you can earn a clear [DM]10,000 a day by hiring out 100 men.

[The] authorities all over Germany are [clampi]ng down on these latter-day [slave tr]aders. Last spring 25 special la[bour ex]change squads were set up in va[rious] parts of the country.

[A st]aff of 260 specially trained flying [squa]d officials were entrusted with [public] prosecutor's office work.

[In] Lower Saxony and Bremen extra [staff] have been put on to this work at [the la]bour exchanges: Hanover, Lüne[burg,] Oldenburg and Emden.

[The si]x-man Emden squad are said to [have] got the wind up building contrac[tors] on whose sites much of the illegal [employ]ment goes on.

[What] makes life particularly difficult [for] illegal agencies is that recently legislation has stepped up collaboration between government departments.

The health insurance, labour exchange, aliens' police, police, public prosecutor's office, inland revenue and factory inspectors used to work uncoordinatedly.

Now they have scrapped red tape and readily share information and help each other out.

Yet Manfred Ochsmann in Hanover says what he and his colleagues have uncovered is merely the tip of an iceberg.

The report he and other regional labour exchanges have compiled for the Federal Labour Office in Nuremberg says that officials on the spot are inundated with incriminating material.

Since last April over 1,000 breaches of the regulations governing private leasing of labour have come to light.

In Germany as a whole there are an estimated 200,000 illegal construction workers, which is a scandal in view of the 130,000 building workers registered as unemployed.

In practice, as seen from Emden, agencies working from Holland set up companies in Germany, using figureheads as managers.

These companies often employ only a single worker officially and aboveboard. His tax and social security contributions are paid to the right authorities, so the companies are issued with certificates of good conduct.

This is the sort of paperwork they need to be able to go into business as sub-contractors to leading construction firms.

Contracts are drawn up and illegal labourers then employed on building sites. Often the contracts are a mere excuse for what both sides know is going on.

If the swindle comes to light the workers simply disappear, and with them the company that supplied them.

What do such activities cost the taxpayer? The trades union confederation says the unpaid tax amounts to maybe DM10bn a year and the unpaid health and social security contribution to a further DM5bn.

These are enormous sums, and a body of experts conferring at the Bundeskriminalamt a few days ago said they were realistic estimates.

Where so much is at stake there is bound to be tough competition, and at least two Dutch groups, the Nijmegen Mafia and the Brabant Syndicate, are known to be competing for the lucrative German market.

There was a recent dispute at Lingen nuclear power station, where one agent elbowed another out of a contract worth several hundred thousand deutschemarks.

Sub-contractor Gerardus Ouwens, from Nijmegen, who employed 60 illegal Dutch contract workers at the reactor site, has threatened to get his own back on his successor.

"It's going to cost him a good few thousand," he says.

Fear stalks the building sites, and Federal Border Patrol and labour exchange officers are no stranger to it. They are most reluctant to be photographed at work.

They are worried the gangsters may try to get their own back on them, and not for nothing. One border patrolman has been shot at, another's car has been wrecked.

But must the flying squad men be armed as a result? The Federal labour Office is seriously considering issuing its special officers with firearms.

Even if it does, they will still face a legal problem. People can be taken to court and prosecuted for a criminal offence if they as much as steal a bicycle.

Illegal job agencies can merely be fined, whether for one offence or 100, and as Christof Burmeester of the building workers' union puts it:

"They and the companies that hire them can pay the fines out of their jacket pockets."

The fines are part of the way the operation is costed, and often enough the offenders are beyond the reach of the law.

"We have fined one offender DM720,000," says Manfred Ochsmann in Hanover. "But he has got off scot-free because he lives in the Netherlands."

Klaus Wiendl

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 19 November 1983)